

THE TIMES

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30p

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WEEKDAY

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BBC surrenders in TV ratings war and goes back to nature

By CAROL MIDGLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC bowed out of the popular ratings war with ITV yesterday, signalling a return to its traditional strengths of popular science, quality drama and natural history. It unveiled a spring and summer schedule of programmes with a stronger emphasis on serious factual programmes, education and drama and the virtual absence of "mass appeal" game shows and docu-soaps.

The new schedule — which includes an epic adaptation of Dickens's *Great Expectations* starring Charlotte Rampling; a history of Sikhism and a series on the thinkers Nietzsche, Heidegger and Sartre — appears to mark a shift in the BBC's strategy after months of being accused of chasing ratings by appealing to the lowest common denominator.

Executives were said to be chastened by backlash over *Vanessa*, the daytime programme which featured hoax guests, and it recently dropped its much vilified Saturday night flagship programme *Noel's House Party*, hosted by Noel Edmonds, saying it was "rethinking and returning" Saturday evening entertainment.

Insiders said the phrase was coined to distinguish the BBC from its "downmarket" rivals, and executives said yesterday that they would not compete for viewers on ITV's terms.

Since ITV scrapped *News at Ten* earlier this month BBC1 has faced fiercer competition from ITV programmes and its share of the audience has dropped below the critical 30 per cent level. Experts have long predicted that the end of *News at Ten* would be a defining moment for the BBC but it has also been hit badly by the game show *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*, which has attracted audiences of up to 19 million.

Mr Yentob admitted yesterday: "It is like an exact missile through the schedules but the BBC could not broadcast that programme. We cannot give away that kind of prize money."

And of the impact of the demise of *News at Ten*, he said: "We do not feel that after a couple of weeks of ITV doing well we have to reinvent the rules... but we do want to remind people of the BBC's strengths. It's a long game and [audience] share is not the only objective. Clearly our competitors are stronger than they were — that's the environment we have to live in — but there are added values the BBC can bring and we are not going to forsake them for the sake of audience share."

Straw bid to block release of IRA men

By MARTIN FLETCHER, PHILIP WEBSTER AND RICHARD FORD

JACK STRAW enraged Irish republicans at a crucial stage in the peace process last night by challenging the imminent release of four top IRA prisoners, including the Brighton bomber Patrick Magee.

The Home Secretary successfully sought a judicial hearing which will be held this morning to prevent Paul Kavanagh, Thomas Quigley and Gerard McDonnell being released from the Maze today, and Magee from being freed in June.

His move — announced by Downing Street — came at the beginning of what Mr Mowlem described as "one of the most critical weeks in Northern Ireland in recent years". She is urgently seeking a way to procure IRA disarmament before next week so that Sinn Féin can join Northern Ireland's new executive and the Good Friday peace accord be saved. But Mr Straw's intervention looked set to strengthen the republicans' resolve to hold on to their arms.

The Home Office said Mr Straw was merely seeking to clarify the law. Some sources in London said that he had consulted Dr Mowlem but admitted that she was not happy about his intervention. Others went further and suggested that the Government was signalling to Sinn Féin that there would be a heavy penalty to pay if the IRA did not disarm.

Gerry Kelly, Sinn Féin's prisons spokesman, accused Mr Straw of interfering with the Good Friday agreement, described his behaviour as unacceptable, and insisted that he should abide by the independent Sentence Review Commission's decision to release the men. Another senior Sinn Féin source expressed disbelief. "It certainly doesn't create the sort of backdrop that

will help anyone over the next ten days."

Andrew Mackay, the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, applauded the delay in the prisoners' release but said the Government appeared to be "in disarray with a lack of co-ordination between departments".

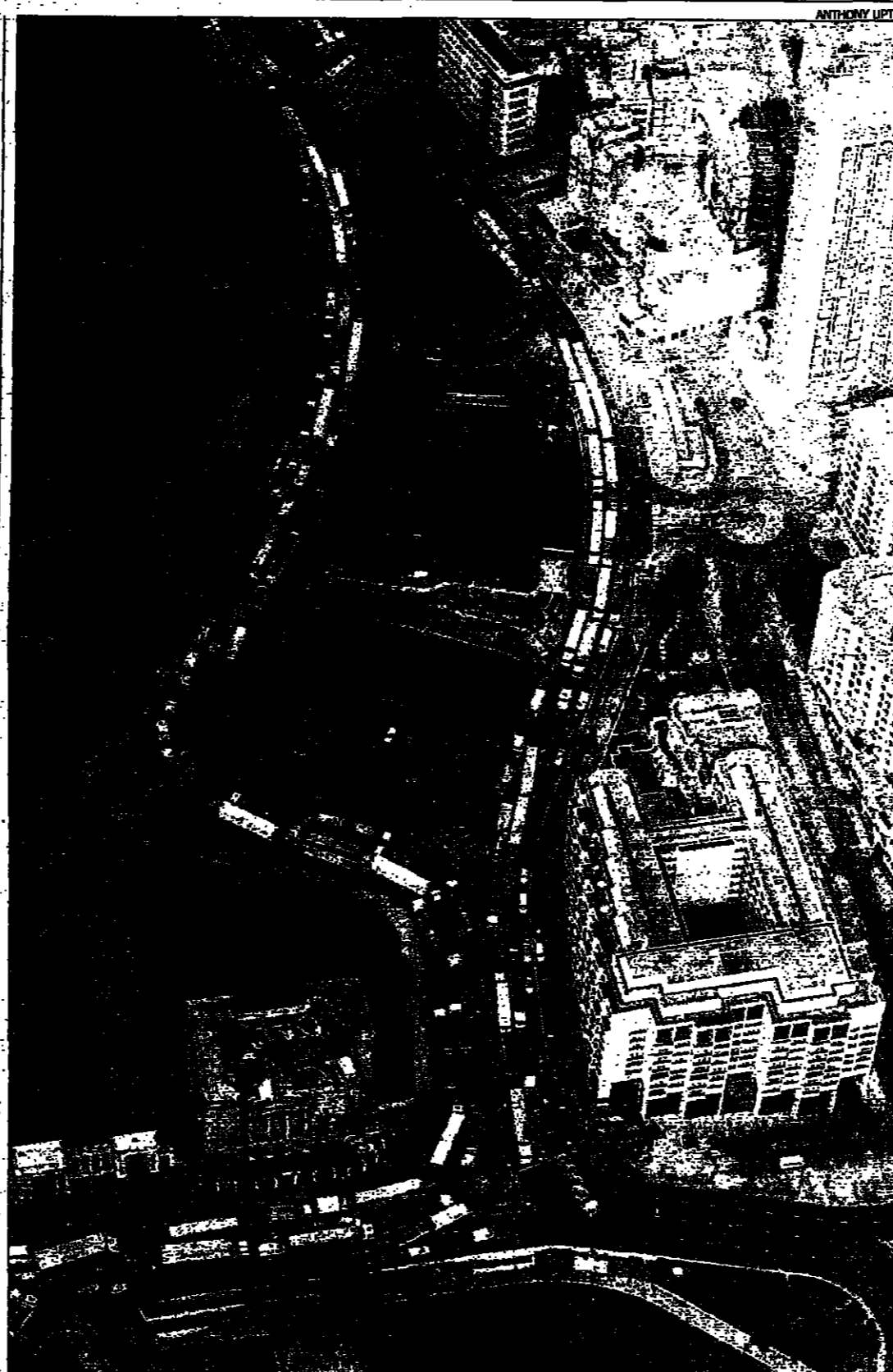
Mr Straw is challenging when, not whether, the four men should be released under the Good Friday accord. The men were sentenced in England, where the "tariffs" — or minimum terms — of life sentence prisoners are far longer than those imposed by Northern Ireland's courts. Three of the four received 50 years' tariffs, and McDonnell — a cousin of Gerry Adams — 25 years.

The Sentence Review Commission uses a mathematical formula to determine when terrorist prisoners should be released. Based on the English tariffs, it originally decided that the four should remain in jail until July next year — the last date for releasing prisoners under the accord. But the prisoners successfully challenged that ruling and the Commission yesterday brought their release dates forward.

Within hours, Mr Justice Givan sitting in Belfast's High Court granted the Home Office a judicial hearing which will be heard today.

A Downing Street spokesman said Mr Straw was "being absolutely insistent on due process" and had no political motive. If he did not "clarify" the terms of the accord, someone else would have challenged the Commission's ruling in the courts.

The four prisoners are among the most infamous IRA inmates in the Maze, and their release would inevitably cause an outcry. Magee, aged 47, masterminded the 1984 Brighton bomb



Lorries blocking Park Lane, London, from Hyde Park Corner and Apsley House (bottom, left) as drivers demonstrated yesterday against Budget increases in diesel fuel and road tax. Page 4

Clinton warns Americans of Kosovo action

FROM TOM WALKER IN BELGRADE AND IAN BRODIE

PRESIDENT Clinton last night gave President Milosevic his last chance to agree to a Kosovo peace deal and escape Nato airstrikes. But the Yugoslav leader's political and military regime seemed set on confrontation with the West.

As Richard Holbrooke, the senior American negotiator in the Balkans, went into final peace talks with Slobodan Milosevic, Mr Clinton prepared the American public for the likelihood of Nato action against Serbia. "I hope it can be achieved by peaceful means. But if not, we have to be prepared to act," he said.

Mr Clinton said that since the suspension of the Paris peace talks a week ago more than 30,000 people had fled their homes, bringing the total number of refugees to 250,000, or one in eight of the entire population of the province.

Addressing himself to a sceptical public, he emphasised the importance of keeping the peace in Europe and containing a conflict which could engulf the Balkans.

However, there were few hints of compromise from Belgrade, where Serb leaders con-

tinued to defy the West, while their forces went on the rampage in several villages in Kosovo. Despite transforming his society into virtually the poorest in Europe, Mr Milosevic seemed to have the support of his alienated people for an apparently doomed clash with Nato's superior weaponry.

It was Mr Holbrooke's 41st trip to Belgrade for emergency talks over the last decade and probably his last. "We've reached the edge," he said. "Time is running out."

Against a background of the most ferocious "cleansing" operations yet seen in Kosovo from the Serb security forces, Mr Holbrooke appeared on television and appealed to the nation to accept Nato peacekeepers in the southern province.

Journalists leaving yesterday reported seeing dozens of villages on fire in an operation chillingly reminiscent of the Bosnian war. The Yugoslav military police continued to issue mobilisation papers, and doctors were banned from leaving the country.

Peter Riddell, page 10
Scorched earth, page 11

US steps up trade war over hormone beef

By CAL MORTISHED
AND VALERIE ELLIOTT

THE United States opened a new flank in its trade war with Europe yesterday by threatening to impose punitive tariffs on \$900 million (£542 million) of European agricultural exports in retaliation for a ten-year-old ban on hormone-treated beef imports from the US.

The products threatened with hefty duties and likely to hurt British exporters include beef, pork and poultry products, as well as onions, carrots, cut flowers and chocolate. The list will also "worry" French producers of Roquefort cheese, foie gras and truffles, all of which are threatened with sanctions. Motorcycles and hair driers are also targeted.

Britain intends to renew pressure on the European Union to lift the ban on the beef; ministers believe that consumers should decide whether they buy and eat the products. Whitehall sources suggested last night that the issue would

be raised at the Council of Ministers meeting in Berlin tonight and tomorrow.

The preliminary list of products will be narrowed, probably to between \$300 million and \$500 million worth of EU exports. They will be subject to crippling tariffs by June 12 if Europe fails to lift its ban on the US beef. Charlene Barshel-

sky, the US trade representative, said: "The EU's ten-year arbitrary and scientifically unjustified ban on US beef has had a substantial negative impact on US beef producers."

Ambassador Peter Scher, the US special trade negotiator, said that America was prepared to discuss a labelling regime for US beef. However, Mr Scher said that the EU had not been willing to give a commitment that it would both implement a labelling regime and lift the ban.

The European Commission dismissed the US move last night as procedural and said talks about labelling and compensation were continuing. Privately, EU officials say America was prepared to identify its product only as "US beef" without identifying the presence of hormones.

The World Trade Organisation ruled in August 1997 that the beef ban was illegal and granted Brussels 15 months to conduct scientific assessments of the health risks.

Duchess of York's mansion for sale

By RACHEL KELLY AND MICHAEL HARVEY

THE Surrey mansion bought for the Duchess of York and her two daughters by the Queen was yesterday put on the market for £15 million.

The Duchess refused to move into the seven-bedroom Birch Hall after claiming she could not afford the estimated £80,000 annual running costs. Yesterday the trustees who own the house on behalf of the Duchess's daughters, Beatrice and Eugenie, put it in the hands of estate agents John D Wood. It is being offered at the same price as it was bought for last year.

The trustees, who have a legal duty to safeguard the value of the trust's assets, have been faced with a deteriorating property. It has been empty for six months and has twice been broken into.

Last night's decision came on the eve of a meeting between the trustees and the Duchess to resolve the situation. Its timing was said to have left her astonished.

The sale of Birch Hall adds another chapter to the long-running dispute between the Duchess and Buckingham Palace over her housing arrangements. The imposing Grade II listed house has five reception rooms, a library, a walk-in drinks cabinet, a tennis court, and a staff cottage.

The Georgian property was built on the site of one of Henry VIII's hunting lodges. The Duchess, 39, has preferred to remain living with the Duke of York at their former marital home Sunninghill Park.

There, to the dismay of several senior members of the Royal Family, she lives in guest lodgings and frequently eats with Prince Andrew and their daughters aged ten and nine.

Local estate agents said the sale was timed to make the most of the spring selling season. One local businessman is said to have already made an offer.

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Blunkett goes to top of the class by copying Tory swots

It's so simple it's almost unbelievable and yesterday David Blunkett demonstrated how it's done. Keep the policy and change the name. After Questions, the Education Secretary brought us an old Tory policy under a new Labour name — and government backbenchers, who would have howled with anger if a Tory had presented the idea in Tory vocabulary, cheered his every word.

At first I could not credit it. Here was Mr Blunkett, explaining how the top 10 per cent of pupils would be select-

ed according to ability and given a different education — and there were the massed ranks of Labour MPs rising, one after the other, even left-wingers like Diane Abbott and Bernie Grant, to congratulate him.

And it was all done with words: the whole trick was in the phraseology. Key words were "excellence", "beacon", "stretched", "special needs", "rooted", and "in their own school". Because a gifted pupil had "special needs" and strove for "excellence" — rather than simply being called bright — she or he could have

special treatment. Because what would be assessed would be "individual aptitudes and abilities" there was no talk of "selection" or "streaming".

Because the child thus selected would remain "rooted" in their own school they could be sent to study in other, better schools without calling it segregation. Because these schools would be termed "specialist" or "beacon" schools, nobody could talk about grammar schools or elite institutions.

And when they reach them, because these kids were not to



MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

be given favoured treatment or superior teaching — but "stretched" — that was all right. Who could oppose stretching a child?

Finally, there were to be extra classes for the selected minority at their own schools. But because these were to be "after hours" or on Saturdays, this did not count as streaming within the school day.

Thus was the idea of removing the brightest and educating them separately, imported craftily back into what in name remained a "comprehensive" system of education. The Tories did not know how to get their teeth into all this and were reduced to bleating that Blunkett ought to admit that what he had come round to was their own point of view.

Not surprisingly Mr Blunkett was disinclined to oblige.

For his part, the Secretary of State ranted (to rowdy support) against people in the "leafy suburbs" who wanted children separated into better and worse schools. Gerald Kaufman aimed a kick at the Tory Assisted Places Scheme, which took a few children out of state schools.

And in a flash I saw the next step. After a trial run, announce that clever inner-city kids should not be confined to "beacon" schools within their area — why should top teach-

ers and facilities in state schools in leafy suburbs be out of bounds? — but bussed as far as their needs and talents merit. Hear, hear! Storm the leafy bastions!

And why should independent schools deny education to our top 10 per cent in inner cities? Force them to open their doors to some of the best (reimbursing them, of course). Break down the gates of the public school! Hear, hear!

Thus within a decade could we have Assisted Places, a variety of schools of different types and standards, and a

fleet of buses carrying kids around according to ability. And all the Labour backbenchers will cheer.

So should the Tories. Theresa May, a Tory spokeswoman, begged Blunkett to confirm that he was bringing back selection. Mr Blunkett said: No, his aim was to "accelerate and extend". Mrs May looked cross. But when you've won the argument, why quibble about the words? Yesterday in Parliament, "the many and not the few" turned out to mean "the few and not the many". What Tory could ask for more?

Crime victims to keep check on police progress

By RICHARD FORD AND STEWART TENDLER

VICTIMS of crime will be able to scrutinise how officers investigate burglaries and assaults under Home Office plans to lift the secrecy shrouding police operations.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, is set to accept one of the key recommendations of the Macpherson report into the Stephen Lawrence inquiry that all areas of policing should be covered by a future Freedom of Information Act.

The Home Office will protect sensitive information held by police by setting a test to establish whether its release would do "substantial harm". An applicant who disagreed with such a ruling could then go to an information commis-

sioner, who would adjudicate. Mr Straw is expected to outline his proposal today when he announces the creation of a watchdog committee to monitor implementation of the main recommendations of the Lawrence report, which he will chair and whose members will include representatives from the Metropolitan Police, other police services, the Crown Prosecution Service and Commission for Racial Equality.

The Home Secretary will tell MPs that the Government accepts all 70 of Sir William's recommendations although this does not mean they will all be implemented. Whitehall sources have pointed out that

some of the most controversial proposals have been put forward for consideration rather than execution. Among these are the proposals to make it a criminal offence to use racist language in private and to allow defendants to be tried a second time even after they have been acquitted.

But other measures have found favour in the Home Office, including allowing legal aid to be given for inquests and greater disclosure of evidence and documents to people appearing at inquests.

Under the Freedom of Information White Paper published in December 1997 the Government proposed that police would provide material on crime statistics and adminis-



Brian Jones is reunited with his wife Joanna, who was waiting at the foot of the aircraft steps with a red rose

Glory day for balloon heroes

FROM HELEN RUMBELOW IN GENEVA

ONE of the privileges of being the first around the world in a balloon is to silence Richard Branson.

As Brian Jones, 51, from Wiltshire, and his Swiss co-pilot Bertrand Picard, 41, flew in from Cairo to their wives, friends and crowd of 5,000 at Geneva Airport yesterday, the Virgin tycoon arrived from London. He was kept waiting because team members were wary of him stealing the limelight.

Finally Mr Branson was allowed on the podium with his two successful rivals on condition that he was not to talk. Officials watched nervously during his appearance, when he showered Mr Picard with

champagne and kissed Mr Jones on the cheek. Afterwards Branson said: "Today is Brian and Bertrand's day. I wanted to congratulate them for achieving something which we failed to achieve."

Mr Jones said that the transition from three weeks in isolation to the throngs of cheering well-wishers left his emotions pouring over. He said: "There have been some moments in the last 21 days when my heart was beating extremely quickly, but never as fast as in this last hour."

The greatest affect on his heart was the sight of his wife, Joanna, after the longest time they have spent apart since their marriage nine years ago tomorrow. Immediately after punching the air with Mr Picard as they emerged from the plane, Mr

Jones walked slowly down the steps towards his wife, who was waiting with a single red rose. They hugged and kissed for several minutes. Holding his hand at a series of interviews and autograph signings, Mrs Jones, 45, said it was bizarre that her husband, a ballooning instructor, was suddenly in the history books.

Mr Jones said he still did not understand why their attempt was successful. "The strangest part was when we didn't know if we had enough fuel to get over the Atlantic. As I was doing frantic calculations, the speed dial started going from 40 to 50 to 70 to 90 knots. I knew then we were going to make it. It felt like we were being pulled." The capsule will go to the Smithsonian Museum, Washington DC.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man held after boy is found dead

The body of a seven-year-old boy has been found in Stipson-Trent. The child was found after a search of outhouse buildings at a home in the town, in Staffordshire, yesterday afternoon. Police have launched a murder inquiry.

Investigating officers confirmed that they knew the identity of the child, but were refusing to release his name until a post-mortem examination had been carried out.

Police said: "The child's body was found by officers as a result of a police search. The child had not been reported missing from home but officers had been investigating the circumstances surrounding the disappearance and whereabouts of a seven-year-old boy since Friday."

A man aged 30 has been arrested in connection with the death on suspicion of murder.

Rugby star fined

Jason Leonard, the English and British Lions rugby union prop, was fined £865 and ordered to pay £300 costs by Feltham magistrates yesterday after he admitted careless driving and leaving the scene of an accident in Chiswick, West London, last July. His licence was endorsed with seven penalty points.

Rail crash ruling

Balfour Beatty has been fined £500,000 under the Health and Safety at Work Act. The rail maintenance company was told by a judge at Chelmsford Crown Court that a freight train was derailed in Essex in September 1997 because the company's workers failed to provide themselves with the right equipment.

Kurdish TV risk

Med-TV, the Kurdish satellite television channel broadcast from London, could be forced off the air permanently because of programmes containing incitements to violence. The Independent Television Commission suspended Med-TV's licence for 21 days pending a decision on whether to revoke its licence.

Flight departure

Air France is likely to phase out Concorde because of high maintenance costs. The decision by the French flag carrier to withdraw its fleet of seven Concorde would leave British Airways as the main user of the supersonic aircraft. British Airways said: "We expect to be flying Concorde for many years to come."

Sex-change win

A man who had a sex-change has won the right to join the police as a WPC. An employment tribunal has ruled that West Yorkshire Police was wrong to end the training of the unnamed person after 14 months. The force was concerned over possible problems with full body searches of suspects.

Bishop banned

A bishop was fined £500 for drink-driving and banned from the roads for a year. The Right Rev Douglas Cameron, 63, the Episcopal bishop of Argyll and the Isles, admitted being almost double the legal limit when he drove erratically near Oban. The Church hierarchy said it retained the utmost confidence in him.

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Smear tests 'are done too young'

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

CERVICAL smear-testing for cancer among young women is illogical, ill-judged and not cost-effective, according to a survey by doctors.

More lives would be saved by dropping cervical testing altogether and increasing the maximum age for breast cancer screening by five years to 69, the study by the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, says. If there is to be cervical screening it would be better to offer it exclusively to the 65 to 69 age group, the report in today's *Journal of Medical Screening* adds.

The authors say the age at which people are invited for cancer screening is somewhat arbitrary. Breast screening is offered to women aged 50 to 64 and cervical smear screening to those aged 20 to 64.

The authors have calculated the years of life lost from cancer per 10,000 people by working out the death rate from each cancer at different ages, and comparing it with life expectancy. For example, there are 5.5 deaths from breast cancer per 10,000 women aged 50 each year. Life expectancy at that age is 80.7 years, so each woman who dies loses a potential 30.7 years of life. This amounts to a total of 169 lost years per 10,000 women.

The report says that, if screening were provided only if at least 50 years of life could be saved per 10,000 women examined, then breast cancer screening would be offered only to those aged 50 to 59. If the threshold were lowered to 25 years of life saved per 10,000 women, then the age range should be 45 to 74.

Only at that level would it be rational to include cervical smears and then only for those aged 40 to 69. Since more years of life are lost from cervical cancer among women aged 70 to 74 than among women under 30, it would be sensible to confine this screening to the 64 to 69 age group.

The authors say one difficult issue is whether life is less valuable in old age than in youth. "The only issue is whether the quality or value of a day of life declines as people age,"

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Trade war takes the biscuit

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FOR Scots living abroad, Tunnock's Caramel Wafers are as much a reminder of home as Marmite is for the English. But now expatriates in the United States will have to do without, for a time at least.

The 15p chocolate-covered chewy wafer with the gold and red tiger-stripe wrapper has fallen victim to the 100 per cent import tax set by America in its "banana war" with Europe.

Despite the biscuit's low price, this traditional feature of Scottish tea-times has been classified as European "luxury goods", joining 16 other items, including cashmere knittedwear.

Boyd Tunnock, managing director of the 109-year-old family firm, was hit with a £25,000 duty bill when a shipment of 400,000 wafers arrived in New York. Mr Tunnock, 65, said that future exports would be suspended.

But, as 90 per cent of his trade is at home, with 1 per cent heading to the United States, the 600 jobs at the factory in Uddingston, near Glasgow, are not under threat.

Bomb-plot confession 'is fake'

ONE of eight Britons charged with a bomb plot in Yemen told a court yesterday that an alleged confession was produced under torture by police. After hearing the judge read out the detailed confession, Malik Harhara, 26, replied: "I said nothing of the sort. May be I signed a document but I did not know what was in it."

Mr Harhara, from Birmingham, is said to have admitted being sent to Yemen by London-based Islamic cleric, Abu Hamza al-Masri, to bomb British and US targets. Mr Harhara also allegedly admitted to undergoing military training with a group called Islamic Jihad in Yemen. The accused say they were in Yemen on holiday or to learn Arabic. The trial continues.

Straw's appeal

Continued from page 1 which killed five people and very nearly destroyed Baroness Thatcher and her cabinet. He was given eight life sentences in 1986 and described by the judge as "a man of exceptional cruelty and inhumanity".

Paul Kavanagh and Thomas Quigley were both part of the IRA unit responsible for the Chelsea barracks bomb and other notorious attacks on London targets in 1981. Both received five life sentences in 1985, and Kavanagh's judge commented: "It may be that no Home Secretary will ever think it is right to release you."

McDonnell, 49, was given a life sentence in 1986 for his part in a plot to bomb English seaside resorts. Even before Mr Straw's intervention, the 80 IRA prisoners left in the Maze had ruled out any goodwill gesture on de-commissioning to rescue the accord. Mr Kelly, emerging

from a six-hour meeting with the prisoners, declared: "Not a single prisoner suggested there should be any movement on de-commissioning."

The prisoners are regarded as the conscience of the republican movement, and it would be almost impossible for Sinn Féin's leaders to act without their support.

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Doctor tells order to sta

THE first woman to be a Royal Navy doctor has been told to stand down from the front line because of a heart condition. The doctor, who has been in the service for 10 years, was told to stand down from the front line because of a heart condition. The doctor, who has been in the service for 10 years, was told to stand down from the front line because of a heart condition.

First Wren to quit after se

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Auntie lowers her expectations

Corporation gets back to basics by seeking ratings for quality, not quantity, writes Carol Midgley

THE Auntie factor returned to the BBC yesterday as executives revealed that they would fight ITV's big game with a diet of costume dramas and educational programmes.

There was a conspicuous absence of glitz and glamour at the schedule launch as the BBC named among its highlights an epic series on the history of the planets and *Tobacco Wars*, another documentary examining the real cost of smoking, to be presented by Michael Buerk.

Of its 20 new documentaries the BBC, which created the public outcry over its docu-soaps with the likes of *Driving School* and *Lakers*, has included only four in its spring and summer schedule.

Instead it is hoping to bring culture to the masses via Tony Marchant's adaptation of Dickens's *Great Expectations* and turning Elizabeth Gaskell's unfinished novel *Wives and Daughters* into a four-part drama under the guidance of Andrew Davies, who adapted Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Alan Yentob, Director of Television at the BBC, insisted yesterday that the docu-soap was not exhausted as a genre, but said the BBC had to continue to try different things. It is refusing to follow ITV's successful scheduling since the axing of *News at Ten* and is hoping to appeal to the public's fascination for science and natural history.

Even the BBC dramas will have an educational message. *Badger*, starring Jerome Flynn, is based on a growing area of crime — wildlife exploitation.

Life Support, a BBC1 drama starring Richard Wilson and Art Malik, is centred on the complexities of medical ethics.

Last week, ITV, which showed a James Bond film and *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*, achieved 43.5 per cent share of the audience compared with BBC's 27.5 per cent.



Charlotte Rampling as Miss Havisham leads the return to the classics

pared with BBC's 27.5 per cent. BBC insiders say executives have decided that ratings chasing is no longer an option and emphasis on quality is the only way to ensure the BBC's survival.

Peter Salmon, Controller of BBC1 said: "This time last year the Governors were asking us to put special emphasis on popular drama. We are doing that while trying to extend our range."

Mr Yentob added that the new season would anticipate viewers' aspirations as well as catering to their wants. "This is television you just won't see anywhere else," he said.

Lenny Henry and Amanda Redman star in *Hope and Glory* about a struggling comprehensive school. A shaven-headed Dervla Kirwan will appear in Minette Walters' psychological thriller *The Dark Room*, which is expected to achieve critical acclaim.

There will also be a special programme dedicated to the total eclipse crossing southern Britain on August 11.

Professor Robert Winston, who hosted the award-winning medical series *The Human Body*, returns with a new series exploring the phenomenon of identical twins.

He will also help to launch *Millennium Babies*, to be screened in early April, about the search for the first baby of the new century.

WEAPONS OF WAR

BBC

8.30pm
Regional News
7.00pm
Holiday
7.30pm
Tomorrow's World
8.00pm
EastEnders
8.30pm
Great Expectations
10.00pm
The Planets
10.30pm
Tobacco Wars with Michael Buerk

Not all programmes are on BBC1, some are on BBC2

ITV

8.30pm
Evening News
7.00pm
Eurovision
7.30pm
Coronation Street
8.00pm
Who Wants to Be a Millionaire
8.30pm
Bond movie



Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? has increased ITV's audience

Gun man sent hoax bombs to Labour

By Russell Jenkins
North West Correspondent

A MAN has been jailed for sending the Labour Party's Walworth Road headquarters hoax bombs in protest at government policy on gun control.

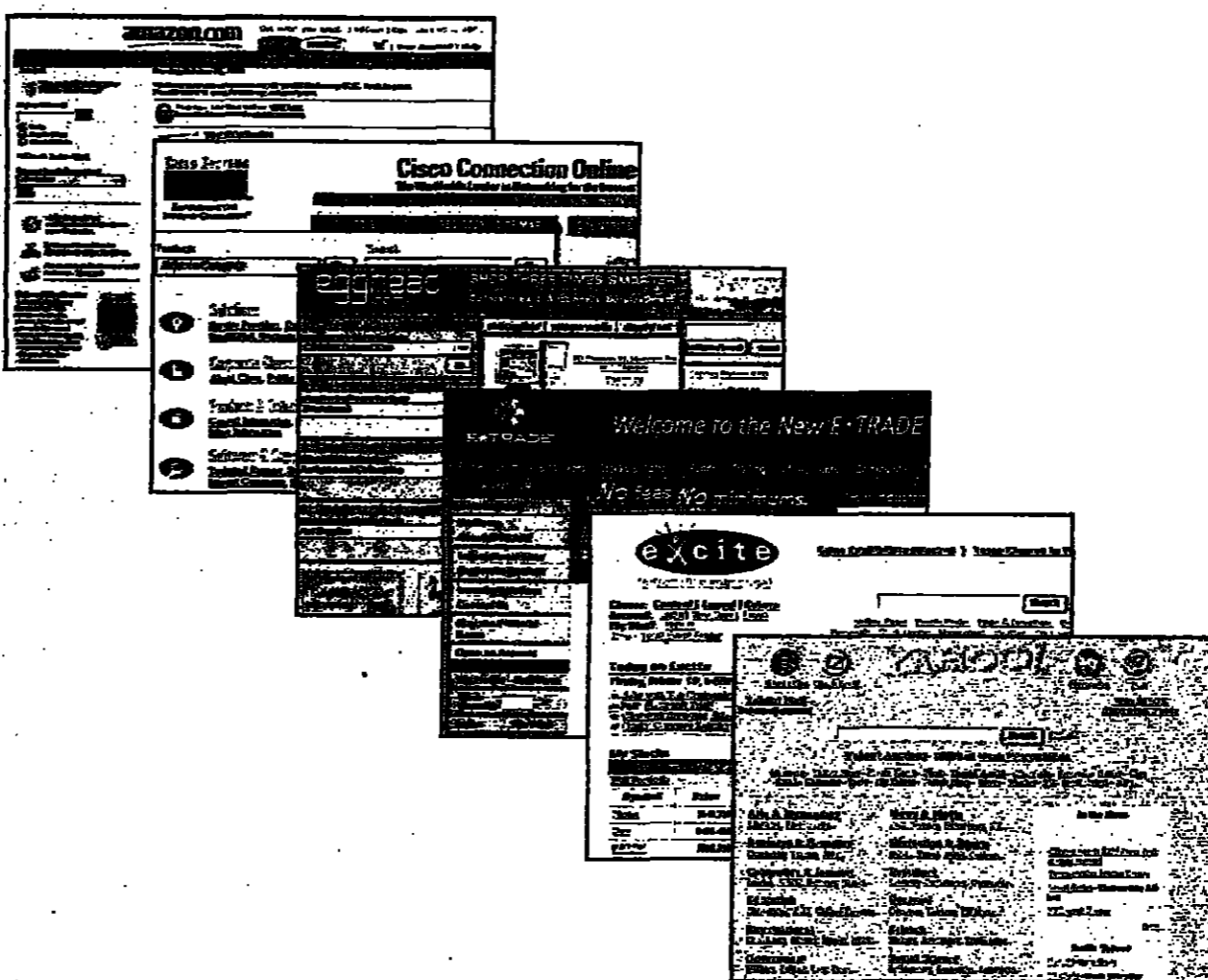
Michael Shields, 40, a gun-club enthusiast from Sandbach, Cheshire, accused Tony Blair of ruining his sport with the tighter gun controls that followed the Dunblane massacre, a court was told. He sent 74 bogus parcel bombs to officials at John Smith House in South London. Police put the offices on heightened security alert and mail had to be redirected to a secure sorting office.

Shields, described in court as a pillar of the community and a school governor, had trawled the Internet sites of far-right American groups for ideas to terrorise those lobbying for a ban on ownership of handguns. A criminologist and a mother of a victim of the Hungerford massacre were his targets during a campaign that ended when police raided his home and found new and antique guns and ammunition.

Shields, a licensed gun-owner, is beginning a 26-month jail sentence after being sentenced at Minshall Street Crown Court in Manchester on Friday. He admitted harassment, sending hoax bombs, posting sharp instruments, possessing a prohibited weapon and criminal damage in the 12 months up to last December.

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Doctor tells why he gave order to starve patient

By Michael Horsnell

A DOCTOR accused of ordering nurses to starve an elderly woman stroke patient to death said yesterday that she had choked when he put her ability to swallow food to the test.

Ken Taylor said that he visited 85-year-old Mary Ormerod in her room at Oxford House nursing home, Preston, alone only two days before ordering that her Fresubin high-protein food supplement be withdrawn and her fluid intake severely curtailed.

Dr Taylor, 51, who was in tears during his five hours of evidence, admitted that he had not disclosed the visit to her bedside before — either to police investigating her death or to the General Medical Council (GMC) — but insisted that he was telling the truth.

Mrs Ormerod, a widow, died at the home in August 1995 weighing only 3st 12lb about 58 days after the nutrition had been withdrawn. Dr Taylor, whose instruction to starve her was defied by nurses until her supplies of the supplement ran out, denies serious professional misconduct.

He told the professional conduct committee of the GMC that he ordered the withdrawal because the burden of feeding Mrs Ormerod was greater than the benefit — though nurses have said in evidence that she had normally been able to swallow her food.

Dr Taylor, a former nurse who qualified as a doctor in 1974, said: "I went into the room. There was not a nurse with me. I remember thinking that I would make an assessment myself. I looked around the room, found a feeding cup with some liquid in it — I believed it was Fresubin, but there was no packet — and I attempted to feed her."

"She was lying in bed on her side. I took off my coat, put the cot side down and I put my arm around her shoulder. I turned her into a position so she was facing upright and very slowly, deliberately introduced some of the liquid into her mouth using the feeding cup. Immediately, she made a very low grumbling choking sound, which went on for perhaps ten or fifteen seconds, and I had to stop feeding and lie her down in the position she was in when I went into the room."

Later Rosalind Foster, counsel for the GMC, asked Dr Taylor: "Why did you not tell the police that it was your personal experience, gained a couple of days before, that she had choked when you tried to feed her?"

Dr Taylor: "Because they did not ask me."

Miss Foster: "Are you telling us the truth about this visit?"

Dr Taylor: "Yes, I am."

The hearing continues.

First Wren to fly almost quit after sexual taunts

By Simon de Bruxelles
West of England Correspondent

THE first woman crew member of a Royal Navy helicopter told a court martial yesterday that she came close to quitting because of sexual harassment by her senior officer.

Leading Wren Aircrewman Bridget Turner, 33, said she put up with years of provocative comments from Warrant Officer Albert Cooper while serving on board the aircraft carrier *HMS Invincible*. Finally, unable to put up with his behaviour any longer, she requested a transfer only to find her transferred assigned to the same base soon afterwards.

Miss Turner said that she did not complain before because she did not want her stipends to be cut. She said that she could not cope with life as a Wren.

She told the court at HMS Drake in Plymouth that the 45-year-old NCO humiliated



Turner feared that she would be sent ashore

her during crew briefings by asking her about her favourite sexual positions.

Miss Turner was one of the first two women to fly with the Fleet Air Arm when she qualified as an aircrewman on board Sea King helicopters. Her job included operating the winch during air sea rescues. She told the hearing: "During my time aboard

HMS Invincible I wanted to leave the Navy. I did not feel I could go to anybody about what was happening because he was my divisional officer."

"He was a very powerful man and myself and another Wren were the first female aircrewmen. I did not want people to say the girls cannot hack it. My fear was I could be sent back to shore if I had a bad report from Cooper. His viewpoint was that Wrens are at sea because the lads needed sex. It was not just general crew room banter. I have been in the Navy a long time and I knew about banter. This went beyond banter."

The court also heard from Leading Wren Aircrewman Bernadette Pope, who shared the honour of being the first Wren to fly. She said: "There was just chit-chat about what we had been up to and Turner was included in the sexual banter. Turner did not appear to be offended by anything he said." The hearing continues.

Lorry drivers threaten to block ports in tax protest

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND ROLAND WATSON

LORRY drivers are threatening to block ports and motorways in a major escalation of a protest campaign that caused traffic chaos in Central London yesterday.

Drivers' leaders admitted that they were unable to prevent widespread action by hauliers angered by tax increases that, they claim, have added crippling costs on to an industry already struggling to combat overseas competition.

Up to 700 lorries converged on the Park Lane area of London, blocking off one of the main arteries through the capital for more than an hour.

However, John Reid, the Transport Minister, hardened the Government's stance, telling hauliers that he would not be held to ransom and accused some companies of working inefficiently.

As he prepared for a meeting with hauliers' leaders today, he insisted that he would not be offering concessions to the industry. He said that millions of motorists had been "penalised" by yesterday's action and said that lorry drivers were wrong to claim that taxes made British companies uncompetitive.

"It does them no justice to misrepresent the position or blame it on the Government," he said. "I have offered the path of dialogue to the hauliers but apparently they prefer the path of disruption." He

backed down, however, over his previous claims that 98 per cent of lorries had had their vehicle tax rates frozen in the last Budget, lowering the figure to "more than 90 per cent". Haulage companies had complained that Dr Reid's figures were "entirely inaccurate".

Ron Wood, a haulage company owner from Sheerness, Kent, and a spokesman for the protest organisers' Transport Action, told protesters gath-

ered in London: "If they do not listen to us today we will do it properly next time — and shut all the docks, all the motorways and all the cities. If they want us to be like the French truckers, we will be like the French truckers."

Gary Donaldson, a Northamptonshire haulier and another campaign leader added: "This is a peaceful protest to start the campaign, but it will quickly get nasty if ministers take no notice."

Fuel tax increases of 6p a litre on diesel have made it almost twice as expensive to fill a lorry with fuel as in France and many international hauliers now fill up their vehicles only when they are abroad.

The two main haulier organisations, the Freight Transport Association and Road Haulage Association, have already had talks with ministers, and refused to condone the drivers' actions, which they fear will alienate the public.

However, Karl Burt, who joined the march on Westminster, said: "All this talking has done us no good. This is the only way to get our message across."

Only one lorry at the protest escaped the rise in fuel duty. The 1930 Seated steam wagon carried a large banner declaring: "Can't afford the diesel — back to coal and steam."

The truckers claimed widespread public support, with old ladies giving them the thumbs-up as they thundered through the countryside. Frank Stears, 51, from Faversham, Kent, who organised the protest, said he had been given a free ride by a London cabbie to Downing Street, where he asked to see the Prime Minister. His mission was a failure.

The drivers claim that British road haulage is becoming a "flag of convenience" industry, with more and more operators registering and fuelling vehicles in Belgium or Luxembourg, where fuel and the road fund licence are far cheaper. Several drivers showed off the vast ex-

tra fuel tanks, taking up to 1,500 litres, that they had had fitted. "I can save at least £200 filling up in Calais rather than Dover," Geoff Harknett, from Dartford, Kent, said. "Fine if you've got a trip over there, but not much good if you're based in Carlisle and all your work is local."

"Now the French and the Belgians are coming over and doing domestic work here they're undercutting us because their overheads are so much lower."

STEVE CHAMBERS donated £32 to the Chancellor yesterday, but did not bridge a penny (Alan Hamilton writes). That was duty he paid on the fuel to drive his Volvo truck from Rugby to Marble Arch to join 1,400 other juggernauts in the protest.

Blocking roads with lorries is a French sort of stunt, which they do better, bringing entire cities to a standstill. Roads into London were congested yesterday morning, but, for most of the day, the streets seemed sweetly quiet. "If we were French, we would stay here for at least a week, and we would have the barbecues out already," Mr Chambers said.



Dame Shirley Porter arriving at the High Court yesterday to challenge her surcharge

Dame Shirley's back, and she means business

By MARK HENDERSON



Weeks: also appealing

IN HER days as the leader of the Tories' showpiece town hall, Dame Shirley Porter used to quote her father, the Tesco founder Sir Jack Cohen, as she warned council officers that "you can't do business sitting on your arse".

Yesterday the woman estimated to be worth £70 million took his advice herself as she made her first public appearance in Britain for more than a year to challenge the £26.5 million surcharge imposed on her for the Westminster City Council homes-for-votes scandal.

On a rare visit from Israel, where she now lives, she arrived at the Court of Appeal surrounded by family members and well-wishers. There was a photocall and a short statement — "I am confident that, when people look at the facts of this case, my name will be cleared" — then it was time for business.

In court, too, there were snatches of the style that in the 1980s made her the Tory woman second in stature only to Margaret Thatcher. The council leader who once waged war against dog mess behind the wheel of a poop-scoop machine dealt with a water spillage just as decisively, dispatching her solicitor's trainee for paper towels.

After lunch, however, there were signs that the former firebrand was burning less brightly as Dame Shirley several times appeared to rest her eyes during her counsel's lengthy submission. She has not been sluggish in engaging her legal team, however. Having controversially failed to engage Lord Neill of Bladen, the chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, she settled for Lord Lester of

Herne Hill, a human rights specialist who took on the Government over *Spycatcher* and represented the spy George Blake. A second silk, Jeremy McMullen, took over in the afternoon.

Dame Shirley and David Weeks, her former deputy, are appealing against the surcharge imposed by John Magill, the District Auditor, in 1996, after he found their policy of "designated" council home sales illegal. The Divisional Court, to which they appealed in 1997, agreed that the scheme was meant to "achieve unlawful electoral advantage" in marginal wards, and confirmed the surcharge.

Lord Lester painted a picture of his client as the victim of a long, unwieldy and unfair judicial process that had never given her the chance to clear her name. Mr Magill had prejudged his own inquiry by giving a press conference to announce preliminary findings of guilt, and the Divisional Court had failed to treat her as innocent until proven guilty — or, on equal terms with the auditor. She had to undergo cross-examination while Mr Magill did not, and had to prove her innocence rather than vice versa.

Against a background of Tory sleaze, the affair "gave the Labour opposition the chance to attack the Conservatives", he said. "The mud that was flung at Dame Shirley has entirely mired her political and personal reputation."

Later Mr McMullen argued that Dame Shirley had never even done anything wrong. She had obtained proper legal advice that informed her the policy was "judge-proof", in spite of its political dimension, he said.

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Baby bulge in 2000 will be risky, say doctors

Millennium boom could stretch the NHS too far, reports Ian Murray

COUPLES were urged to resist the temptation to take part in a millennium baby boom yesterday. Hospital consultants said that trying to conceive a child to be born in the first hours of 2000 could overstretch medical resources, giving an increased risk of complications and permanently handicapped children.

The NHS maternity services are barely able to cope with the current rate of about 2,200 births per day owing to a national shortage of midwives, a statement from the Hospital Consultants and Specialists Association said. "A severe bulge in this number will render the service into a state of collapse."

The consultants say that if couples follow media advice that this week is the optimum for conceiving a millennium baby, there will be reduced standards of care which will be a hazard to both mother and baby for two weeks into the new year.

They also say that paediatric services would not be able to function adequately and intensive care facilities would be overloaded. "The result is likely to be an increase in the number of complications for

mothers and probably an increase in the risk of lifetime handicaps for children."

A birth bulge would make life almost impossible for maternity staff at a time when there could be unforeseen problems from the millennium bug affecting computer equipment.

Robin Loveday, consultant obstetric anaesthetist at Pembury Hospital, in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, said that a sustained increase in births would increase the hazards because it would not be possible to get a sick or premature baby into a special intensive care unit.

"If the other neighbouring hospitals have peaks at the same time, you are in trouble as you cannot transfer patients," he said. "The potential is there for producing a handicapped baby as a result of the overload of the services."

If a larger than usual number of couples try to conceive this week, the consultants say that the peak birthing time for the NHS will last for about a fortnight, with no let-up at all for obstetricians and midwives to plan to induce mothers to help to spread the time period.



The Prime Minister with the Duke of York and Emma Bunton, of the Spice Girls, at yesterday's NSPCC event

Duke backs drive against child cruelty

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE Duke of York urged parents to be more tolerant and respectful towards children yesterday. As chairman of the NSPCC's Full Stop campaign, which aims to raise £250 million, he became the first signatory to the charity's pledge against child cruelty.

Since the break-up of his marriage, the Duke has won plaudits from family campaigners for his devotion to his children and his determination to stand by his former wife. Yesterday, at the launch of the campaign at the Theatre Royal, London, he said: "As a father of two children, I think it's entirely right and proper that we should attempt to eradicate child abuse."

Although it was not possible to stop all child abuse, it was possible to save some lives, he added. "Some of the eradication of cruelty can be achieved with no capital out-

lay by raising awareness. I don't just mean cruelty in terms of physical cruelty. It can be psychological and mental."

Over the next few weeks, NSPCC pledge forms will be delivered to 23 million households. The charity hopes that at least one million people will sign the pledge and donate money within a year. Supporters include the radio presenter Zoe Ball, the former England striker Gary Lineker and Tony Blair.

Families Need Fathers, a charity that supports shared access to children, regards the Duke and Duchess of York as the model divorced couple in their behaviour towards the Princesses Beatrice, 10, and Eugenie, who is nine today. Jim Partin, its chairman said: "They both turn up at school sports days, go on holiday together and they are both there for their children."

Women leave pregnancy to fate

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN'S decisions on whether and when to have a baby are influenced by subconscious feelings that go far beyond practical considerations about money, housing, relationships and health.

A study published today by the Family Planning Association (FPA) shows that many women, including well-educated professionals, believe that "biological destiny" will decide whether they will have a baby. As a result, they frequently do not use contraception properly, if at all.

Although most women questioned in the study said that they would like to be able to plan at what point in their lives pregnancy occurred, many did little to prevent it happening, believing instead that it was an inevitability.

Anne Weyman, chief executive of the FPA, said that one in three pregnancies in Britain was said to be unplanned, but that the question of intent was exceedingly difficult to answer.

definitively. Many women said they had not known they wanted to become pregnant until it happened.

Ms Weyman added that many women felt that pregnancy was "influenced by a strong 'biological imperative', in which their bodies played a stronger role than their own free wills.

She added that many women "seemed quite ignorant about how their bodies worked and about the process of conception. Few women appeared to know at what point in the month they were most likely to get pregnant."

Some women may fit into different categories at different times in their lives, she said. In general, middle-class women often had a "grand plan" for their lives and were less vulnerable to unintended pregnancies than working-class women. Working-class women were, on the whole, much more positive about having children.

THE SEVEN TYPES OF MOTHER

The study, based on discussions with 200 women, identified seven types of mother. The first type, the 'biological destiny' mother, believes that pregnancy is a natural process that cannot be controlled. The second type, the 'planned' mother, believes that pregnancy should be planned and controlled. The third type, the 'accidental' mother, believes that pregnancy is an accident that can happen at any time. The fourth type, the 'unplanned' mother, believes that pregnancy is an unplanned event that can happen at any time. The fifth type, the 'unintended' mother, believes that pregnancy is an unintended event that can happen at any time. The sixth type, the 'unwanted' mother, believes that pregnancy is an unwanted event that can happen at any time. The seventh type, the 'unwelcome' mother, believes that pregnancy is an unwelcome event that can happen at any time.



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Branagh pins hopes on love for the Bard

Love's Labour's Lost is next, writes Adam Sherwin

IT WAS a night of triumph for British talent at the Oscars, but, as the champagne hangers were off, work resumed on the films that aim to repeat that success next year.

If the Bard retains his popularity with the Academy, Kenneth Branagh's *Love's Labour's Lost* could match the success of *Shakespeare in Love*. The £15 million adaptation of Shakespeare's romantic comedy is the biggest British film now in production.

Branagh, who has already brought *Hamlet*, *Henry V* and *Much Ado About Nothing* to the big screen, began shooting at Shepperton film studios earlier this year. The cast includes Alicia Silverstone, Hollywood's latest glamour girl, and Paul Whitehouse, the star of the BBC comedy *The Fast Show*. Branagh plays Berowne as well as directing.

The film will receive £1 million of national lottery funding, awarded by the Arts Council, and further financial assistance from Pathé, a lottery-funded film production consortium. Unlike *Shakespeare in Love*, the Branagh film can claim to be a home-grown product. Intermedia Films, the producers, said: "We sold the rights around the world before

LINKS

daphne.palmer.edu/shakespeare comprehensive site with biography and genealogy of the Bard. Links to information on his plays and new television and film productions.
www.stratford.co.uk/rsc/home.html summer programme for Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-upon-Avon.
www.incompetech.com/authors/shakespeare/ biographies of Marlowe, de Vere and Bacon, playwrights whom some say really wrote works attributed to Shakespeare.

filming, which gave us the money to make the film ourselves."

Ralph Fiennes is also at Shepperton, where he is taking the lead role in *The End of the Affair*. Neil Jordan's £15 million version of Graham Greene's wartime thriller. The film is an Anglo-American production. A spokesman for the film said: "There is not a penny-piece from England, but what is a British film? Most of the cast and crew are English."

The BBC is making a film of Mervyn Peake's *Gormenghast* at Shepperton, starring Stephen Fry and June Brown. Pinewood, Britain's other major studio, is hosting the next James Bond epic, *The World Is Not Enough*. However, the studio has no films definitely booked in after that is completed, confirming indus-

try fears that the strength of the pound is deterring filmmakers from bringing their productions to England.

Despite the success of *Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, the audience for British-produced films has declined from 23 per cent of the total box office in 1997 to 14 per cent at the end of 1998. American money still accounts for 60 per cent of all finance spent on film production in Britain.

Nearly £70 million of lottery cash has been allocated to film production, but few box-office hits have resulted. Carolyn Lambert, director of the Arts Council's Film Lottery Unit, admitted: "No films we funded have fully recouped their outlay." Poor scripts are blamed. Ms Lambert said: "We now have professional script-readers providing a detailed assessment of each film."

Some people believe too many British films are made. Richard Holmes, producer of *Waking Ned*, a low-budget comedy set in Ireland, which has taken \$24 million (£15 million) in the United States, said: "Two British films a week is the absolute maximum the market can sustain."

Letters, page 19



LA style: from left, party time for Minnie Driver; Emily Watson, nominated for Best Actress; and Jennifer Lopez, presenting Original Song award



Catherine Zeta Jones, strapless in Versace

TO SEE the real stars of the Oscars, you don't have to stay up until Sam (Deborah Brett) writes. For a fashion show featuring some of the world's most beautiful women in some of the world's most fabulous gowns — or, occasionally, some of the world's most visible fashion mistakes — you have only to watch the first half-hour.

The 71st Academy Awards, however, were disappointing. In a catastrophic fro-

from numbers — LA, it seems, has finally got some style. Mistakes on the scale of Cher wearing a ship on her head or Geena Davis in one of her peachy puffballs were scarce. Celine Dion's Christian Dior couture suit did flummox a few. A winner in pure fashion stakes, the cream-reversed-tuxedo suit and matching fedora-cum-trilby hybrid

was a brave attempt that left people guessing: was it on back to front?

In the contest between the two period drama queens, Gwyneth Paltrow may have won the acting award, but Cate Blanchett took the fashion accolade. She wore a deceptively simple, slinky knit dress with floral tulle embroidery cascading over her

back almost as if it had been handpainted by its British designer, John Galiano himself.

Paltrow's marshmallow-pink satin dress by Ralph Lauren was a little too Princess Grace: tight and clingy on top (even on skinny Gwyneth) and too voluminous below. Her newly lengthened tresses, last seen at the Golden

AND NOW, THE BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS...

Jubilant clown entertains with

FROM GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES

THE biggest stars in Hollywood yesterday were Roberto Benigni and Monica Lewinsky. The award-winner had stolen the Oscar show with his impassioned declarations. The sometime White House intern stole the late-night party scene with shocking pink lips and the sort of fame that made even Madonna stop and stare.

Gwyneth Paltrow and Harvey Weinstein had created nearly as much of a stir. The night's Best Actress sobbed on the podium as she regaled the audience with her family's joys and woes. Then she bounced

into the *Vanity Fair* soiree too thrilled to notice Ben Affleck, her ex-boyfriend, marching out.

Mr Weinstein, the Miramax co-chairman, can now claim to be the most powerful man in film. He left the ceremony with his shirt untucked, but an Oscar in each fist — two of the ten in which his company had a role after *Shakespeare in Love*'s surprise victory over *Saving Private Ryan*.

But the Roman clown who had dared to take a comic approach to the Holocaust in his film *Life is Beautiful* made the four-hour Oscar show — the longest yet — watchable. "I leave here with the Oscar, but I want you," he exclaimed after clam-

bering over Steven Spielberg to collect the prize for Best Foreign Film from his compatriot, Sophia Loren. An American reporter asked afterwards if Benigni had planned to climb over seats to the podium. "I let my body do what it wants," he replied. "When you are in love, you cannot organise your body."

Then Benigni's fellow nominees for Best Actor, Sir Ian McKellen, Tom Hanks and Nick Nolte, looked on as he emerged the winner. His English not quite exhausted, Benigni announced a desire to be Jupiter and "lie down in the firmament making love to everybody". He thanked Hollywood for a "hallstorm of kindness".

WHOOPIING IT UP



Whoopi Goldberg sported outfits based on the five films in best costume category. These were her versions of *Elizabeth*, *Shakespeare in Love* and *Velvet Goldmine*

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THE 1999 ACADEMY AWARDS



Madonna, left, and Celine Dion; right: Judi Dench, Cate Blanchett, Gwyneth Paltrow



IN BRIEF

Italy says bravo to Benigni

The triumph at the Oscars of Roberto Benigni's controversial tragic-comedy film about the Holocaust, *Life Is Beautiful*, was greeted yesterday with an explosion of Italian national pride. Massimo D'Alema, the Prime Minister, said that the award marked "an honour for Italian culture", and the Italian director Franco Zeffirelli said: "His win is good for all of us."

The actress Sophia Loren, who won her first Oscar in 1961, said: "Roberto's achievement is to have changed the image of Italy, which people still associate only with pizza, spaghetti and the Mafia."

Teen actor's lip service

Daniel Brocklebank, a teenage graduate of Redroofs Theatre School at Maidenhead, near Slough, explained that he played a part in Gwyneth Paltrow's success by kissing her 32 times in the making of *Shakespeare in Love*. In the role-reversal custom of Elizabethan drama, he played a stage Juliet to her Romeo, kissing her twice in a scene shot 16 times. He said: "It was a great honour. I was only 18, and here I was kissing Gwyneth Paltrow. She was a very good kisser - it wasn't like kissing my mum or anything."

Extras for Stratford

Stratford-upon-Avon is preparing for a glut of visitors and the Royal Shakespeare Company expects heavy bookings after the success of *Shakespeare in Love*. Kate Hunter, of the RSC, said: "It's great for business. This will be a huge boost to tourism for Stratford, especially from overseas. It [the Leonardo DiCaprio film] *Romeo + Juliet*. It makes Shakespeare more accessible to young people." Advance bookings for the Stratford theatre's 1999 season have already exceeded £2 million.

funny way of reaching the top

and his parents for "the greatest gift of all — poverty".

Eight of the 31 British nominees won Oscars, among them Sir Tom Stoppard, who was demure on stage but promised he was feeling like Benigni underneath; David Parfitt, a producer of *Shakespeare in Love*; and Dame Judi Dench who, having been nominated for playing Victoria last year and won for playing Elizabeth I this, remarked afterwards that she was not looking for "my third queen in a row".

Backstage, Dame Judi and Paltrow professed their love for British film-making, but gave warning that it remained fragile. "More films are being made now and

some are quite wonderful, but we're still babes at it," said Dame Judi.

Ms Lewinsky has never been in a film, but it looked as if opportunity might be knocking in the early hours of yesterday morning. Reclining in a tight black gown on a huge white sofa at the *Vanity Fair* party, she proved a magnet for the Hollywood A-list, gawped at by Affleck, Madonna and Kevin Costner, among others, in mute recognition of her unique cachet. When the scrutiny became too much, she buried her head behind Jonathan Marshall, a film production executive.

The one drama forecast for Sunday night that failed to unfold was an audi-

ence mutiny over the honorary Oscar for the director Elia Kazan, 47 years after he had named alleged Communist colleagues before the House Un-American Activities Committee during the McCarthy era.

Kazan, 89, whose films include *On The Waterfront*, was hugged by Martin Scorsese, kissed by Robert De Niro and applauded by most, but not all, of the audience. The actors Nick Nolte and Ed Harris sat with their arms crossed, their protest noted by a billion television viewers. Without apologising for anything, Kazan said, "I think I can just slip away," and did just that.

Best Picture:
Shakespeare in Love
Best Leading Actor:
Roberto Benigni, *Life Is Beautiful*
Best Leading Actress:
Gwyneth Paltrow, *Shakespeare in Love*
Best Supporting Actress:
Judi Dench, *Shakespeare in Love*
Best Supporting Actor:
James Coburn, *Affliction*
Best Director:
Steven Spielberg, *Saving Private Ryan*
Best Foreign Language Film:
Lily Is Beautiful
Best Screenplay Written Directly For The Screen:
Shakespeare in Love
Best Screenplay Based On Material Previously Produced or Published:
Gods and Monsters
Best Art Direction:
Shakespeare in Love
Best Costume Design:
Shakespeare in Love



Best Makeup: Elizabeth
Best Sound: Saving Private Ryan
Best Sound Effects Editing:
 Saving Private Ryan
Best Song: When You Believe
Best Animated Short Film: Bunny
Best Two Actors Short Film:
 Election Night (Malaysia)
Best Original Musical or Comedy Score:
 Shakespeare in Love
Best Original Dramatic Score:
 Life Is Beautiful
Best Editing: Saving Private Ryan
Best Achievement in Cinematography:
 Saving Private Ryan
Best Achievement in Visual Effects:
 When Dreams May Come
Best Achievement in Production Design:
 The Portrait: Improvements On
 Romance In The Golden Years
Best Documentary Feature:
 The Last Days
Best Documentary Award: Elia Kazan
Best Achievement Award: Norman Jewison

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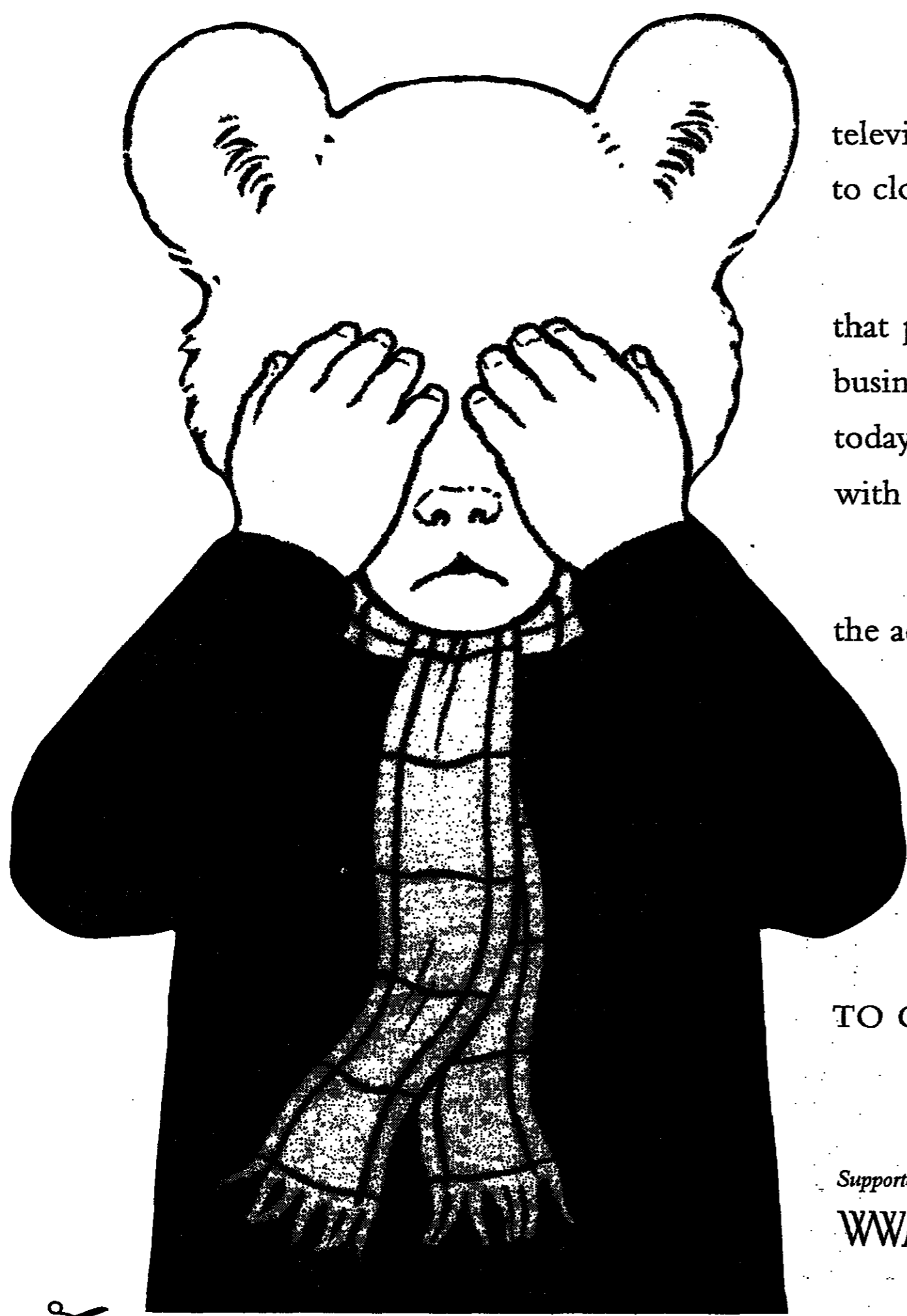
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More city homes to save the country

TOUGHER rules on housing developments in the countryside will be unveiled by the Government today.

Councils are to be told to adopt an approach in which the priority is given to converting offices and other redundant inner-city buildings and redeveloping derelict land. The rules could spell an end to developments such as Grazeley, a 2,500-house site planned in Berkshire south of the M4.

The tighter rules, to be announced by Richard Caborn, the Planning Minister, will also give priority to "city extensions" rather than settlements on greenfield sites. The extensions should be built at higher densities to counter the threat of urban sprawl. This will also ensure that there are

Councils to be told to use empty offices and wasteland before releasing greenfield sites, reports Nick Nuttall

enough people to support new shops, leisure facilities and bus services to counter unnecessary commuting, the Government believes.

Ministers have shied away from a precise figure, but may suggest densities of between 17 and 50 homes an acre, far higher than the fewer than nine homes an acre in traditional suburban sites.

The new rules, dubbed the sequential approach, form part of the long-awaited Planning Policy Guidance 3, which has been drafted to fulfil John Prescott's pledge last year to end the "predict and provide" approach to housing, and to

counter the threat to the countryside from an estimated 4.4 million new homes needed by 2016.

The rules are also in response to growing discontent among Labour's MPs in the shires who fear that their seats will be vulnerable if unbridled housing development continues.

Campaigners such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England have claimed that the existing planning rules are steering too many developments into greenfield and greenbelt areas. Tony Burton, of the council, said yesterday: "Previous policies have been unthinking. It has been far easier and

cheaper to build on greenfield sites." He said that several new countryside towns or settlements were in the pipeline, including Grazeley, Broadclyst, which will provide up to 3,000 homes in Devon; and up to 8,000 houses at Micheldever, Hampshire.

The new rules, making it far harder for such projects to get land allocated, are aimed at meeting and, it is hoped, exceeding the Government's target for pushing 60 per cent of the new dwellings into inner-city sites. The Government has been impressed by research and reports from groups including the Joseph Rowntree Trust, the UK

Round Table on Sustainable Development and consultants to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions. These have concluded that there is far more abandoned and vacant land in cities than many councils have included in local development plans.

Some places in the North West such as Manchester, Oldham and Lancaster, could accommodate 36 times more homes than they do. London could increase its housing capacity by 50 per cent if small parcels of land and redundant buildings were fully utilised, a government-backed report has concluded. Under the new rules councils will

be required to seek out all suitable plots, assess the potential for conversions and take account of environmental considerations. These will include studies into how many homes could be built on a brown-field site if street parking were cut. Studies in London suggest that reducing the number of car spaces to fewer than one a home could double the number of homes that could be built in the capital, to more than one million.

The Government announced last year that it had asked Ordnance Survey to draw up a land-use database to pinpoint every scrap of derelict land. Mr Caborn will urge local

authorities to make use of this to formulate their planning strategies.

The Government is also expected to require councils to take account of "windfall sites": parcels of land that suddenly come on to the market because, for example, a bus garage closes. Studies indicate that the amount of inner-city land that becomes available after councils have drawn up their ten-year plans can be as much as 20 per cent of a local authority's needs. At present councils can estimate windfall sites of only one acre or less when planning land releases, which means, critics say, that many councils release too much rural or greenfield land for development, which can be impossible to claw back.

Ex-officers try to halt football disaster case

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

TWO former South Yorkshire police commanders began an attempt yesterday to order the Director of Public Prosecutions to take over and halt a private prosecution by relatives of those involved in the Hillsborough football stadium disaster.

Former Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield and former Superintendent Bernard Murray are accused of unlawful killing and wilful neglect of duty in a prosecution started last year by the Hillsborough Family Support Group. Mr Duckenfield is also accused of perverting the course of justice by lying over the circumstances in which a gate at the football ground was opened at the time of the disaster.

Ninety-six fans were killed in the tragedy during an FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest at the Sheffield Wednesday ground in 1989.

Yesterday Michael Harrison, QC, for the two men, asked the Court of Appeal for leave to start a judicial review into the refusal of David Calvert-Smith, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, to stop the case. The men claim that Mr Calvert-Smith's decision was perverse and unrea-

sonable and was based on unlawful and improper policy.

Mr Harrison told Lord Justice Cresswell and Mr Justice Latham, that the Hillsborough case had been subject to a series of investigations by the Crown Prosecution Service. Each time a prosecution had been ruled out.

The court was told that, when the CPS was asked to step in and halt the prosecution, it replied that the DPP would step in only if there was clearly no case to answer, the public interest favoured no action and a private prosecution would damage the interest of justice.

Mr Harrison asked what public interest factors were so strong that they overrode a decision to close it down.

The court will also be asked to decide whether the South Yorkshire police authority has the power to fund the former policemen's defence in a private prosecution and whether they should fund the action over the DPP's decision.

The police authority suspended financial support for the men in February after being given legal advice that it had no funding powers. The Hillsborough families support the authority.



Ian Price: he said the masked men who grabbed him from behind were "cowards"

Family of Ulster attack boy vow to defy threats

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE parents of a 13-year-old boy viciously beaten by loyalist paramilitaries yesterday insisted that he would defy their exile order and remain in Northern Ireland.

"He is coming home to me," declared Ian Price as his son, also named Ian, lay in a hospital bed with a shattered elbow, broken fingers and extensive cuts, bruising and puncture wounds inflicted by a gang of hooded men using nail-studded baseball bats.

Ian is believed to be one of the youngest people subjected to a paramilitary punishment beating, let alone an exile order. The attack is being attributed to the Ulster Defence Association.

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, called it "barbaric and appalling". Adam Ingram, the Security Minister, said the paramilitaries had "stooped to a new low". The RUC called it an "absolutely horrific attack on a child".

The gang grabbed Ian as he was playing with friends in Newtownards, Co Down, at the weekend. The men made the other children sit and watch as they clubbed the boy for several minutes. They then



Grace Price: son is "no angel, but has a heart"

put a gun to his head and told him he had 24 hours to leave the country.

Ian called his attackers a "bunch of cowards". He said he was grabbed from behind and "welled" on the arm. "I just went all numb and took the rest of the beating."

Ian's mother, Grace, said he had recently been in court for stealing, but that was no reason to beat him. "He may not be an angel, but he's got a good heart and he'd run a mile for anybody." His father said it was "a disgrace that these people can call themselves men".

After a brief lull republican and loyalist punishment attacks are picking up. There were three last weekend.

Men get it in the neck for snoring

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MEN are more likely to snore because the male neck is more muscular, say scientists who used a medical scanner to solve the puzzle.

Snoring is caused by soft tissue collapsing and obstructing the airways. This forces the sleeper to breathe heavily to force them open, which causes the soft palate to vibrate. Logically, women should snore more because they have more body fat. It has been a mystery why women generally sleep more quietly than men.

However, researchers at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary used a magnetic resonance imaging scanner to examine the necks and airways of volunteers and found that men have a greater proportion of soft tissue in the neck than in the body as a whole because they have a larger amount of muscle there. Men also have bulkier tongues and soft palates.

The researchers, reporting in the specialist journal *Thorax*, conclude that, when men fall asleep, the reduction in muscle tone means that the soft tissue collapses the airways and snoring results.

The volunteers, ten men and ten women, were matched closely for age and degree of obesity. All 20 said that they did not snore.

Rembrandt export blocked

THE export of a Rembrandt oil painting was temporarily blocked by the Government yesterday to give British museums and galleries a chance to raise the £9.3 million asking price.

The sale of *Portrait of an Elderly Man*, painted in 1667, had been agreed between the

owners, the estate of Lord Cowdray, and a buyer from The Netherlands.

However, Alan Howarth, the Arts Minister, decided to block the deal until June 22, acting on the advice of the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art that the painting, which was brought

to Britain in the mid-18th century, should remain in the country if possible.

If a prospective British buyer is making a serious attempt to raise the cash, but has not reached the required amount by the deadline, the block could be extended for three months to September 22.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl of 12 dies from meningitis

A girl aged 12 has died in hospital in Southampton a day after becoming ill at home with meningitis. Victoria Pass was a pupil at Noadswood Secondary School in Dideden Park, Hampshire. Children who have been in close contact with her are being prescribed antibiotics.

Mike Barker, consultant in communicable diseases control for Southampton and South West Health Authority, said: "We believe this is a sporadic, unlinked case." Her headmaster, John Samuels, said that Victoria had suffered problems with her legs and feet in recent years and had shown determination through a number of operations. He added: "She was a cheerful, determined and popular girl and will be sadly missed."

Hunt barred

A hunt was barred from public land for breaching tightened guidelines. The Forestry Commission imposed a 31-day suspension on the New Forest Foxhounds after video evidence showed members letting hounds dig a fox from its lair.

Bowled out

Counterfeit cricket equipment with a bogus trademark of Gurn and Moore of Nottingham has been seized by trading standards officers in London. The company spotted fake versions of their gloves, pads and bats in a brochure.

Latin is rubbish

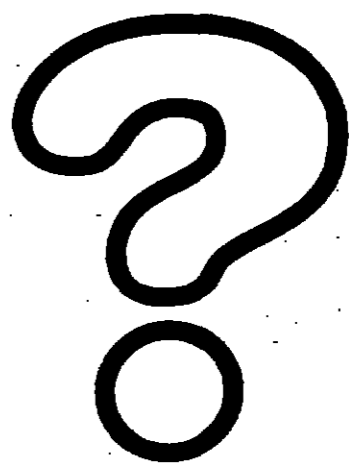
Worcester City Council has ordered an investigation after its motto *Civitas in Bello et Pace Fidelis* (City Faithful in War and Peace) was spotted as being misspelled on a dustcart. It is also wrong on letterheads.

CORRECTION

Eluned Morgan MEP listed all her interests in full when she returned her declaration of interests form (report, March 6).

Here's a tough one for homeowners:

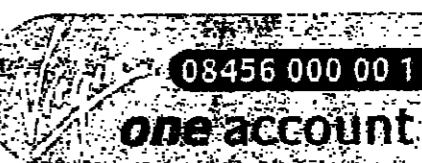
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A young Kosovo refugee gives a victory sign from the safety of Macedonia yesterday

Serbs pursue scorched earth strategy

UNFORGIVING and unabated, the Serb offensive swept onwards through the Drenica region of central Kosovo yesterday beneath a pall of smoke from villages that burned on all points of the compass.

"If the outside world doesn't help us soon there will be nothing left for us Albanians but a shared grave," said one refugee, Alija Shaban, 60, as he fled southwards through Lusa, which by late morning was itself coming under mortar fire. His village, Rezala, had suffered Serb bombardment on Sunday. Packing 25 of his family on to cars, he had walked beside them for three hours through the forest, and had another two hours of road before him until he reached the sanctuary of friends.

"Where is Nato? We signed the agreement. They promised to protect us if we signed and we did. If we don't get help from the outside world there will be a massive catastrophe for our people. We shall die."

Other refugees in his column were fleeing Likovac, one-time headquarters of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), now also under shell-

Rebels regroup as refugees beg for help, writes Anthony Loyd in Gornja Klina

fire and ground attack. North of the Srtica-to-Komoranec road, the axis of advance that the Serbs took to bisect Drenica two days ago, plumes of smoke rose from village after village, destroyed as Yugoslav forces hammered KLA pockets back towards the arid of the Cicavica mountain range, seized by the Serbs last week.

With the news of the assaults on Likovac and Rezala it seems that they have now turned their advance southwards too. Drenica is being carved and crushed piecemeal. In Gornja Klina, two miles north of Srbica, Serb troops stepped from flaming houses as on the road below them pathetic groups of Albanian women and children milled about in listless shock.

Their escape routes blocked, they had no idea where to run to. Serbian police brazenly loaded a truck with looted possessions. Macabrely, a rope noose swung inside gutted house, while the silhouettes of howitzers poked skywards on the smoking horizon.

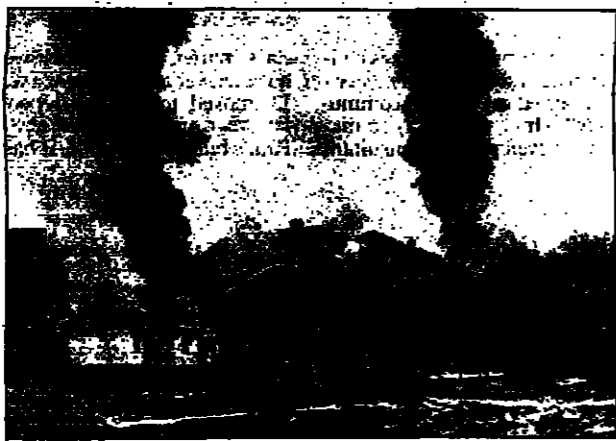
The offensive has ripped gunfire across Kosovo, and the Serbs are not having it all their own way. On Sunday night four policemen died in a hail of Kalashnikov fire just north of the centre of Pristina. Another two were wounded beside them by a drive-by KLA team.

Hours earlier, on the road between Suva Reka and Shudencane, 28 miles south of Pristina, I saw Serb special police and Yugoslav Army troops crouching among rubble as they prepared to withdraw in disorder from blazing houses, ignited when their patrol was ambushed by KLA guerrillas.

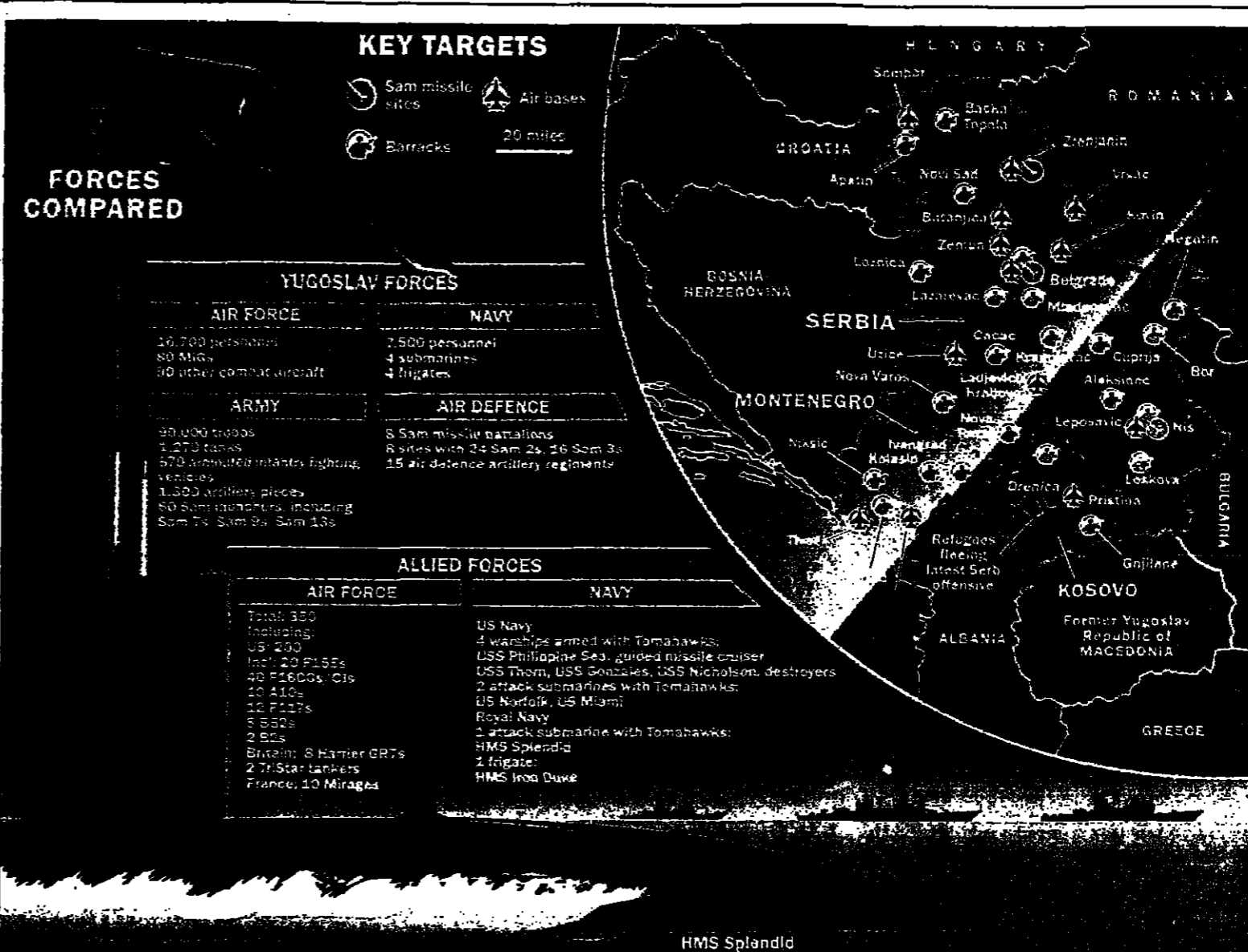
When the verifiers of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe were present the Serbs' access along this route was usually guaranteed by negotiation. Now these men have gone, all bets are off. The Serbs seemed almost surprised by their fate. "There are many terrorists in the hills," a shaken officer said from behind the cover of his vehicle.

Even in Glogovac, centre point of the Serbs' advance, the Yugoslav military was running into problems. KLA fighters crept through their lines on Sunday, planting charges beneath bridges on either side of the town. The blasts failed to bring the bridges down, but one was rendered impassable. "The whole thing is sliding out of control," a Western diplomat in Skopje, Macedonia, said. "If Nato does want to act it must do so very fast."

Letters, page 19



Smoke rises from houses torched by Serb forces in Gornja Klina in the Drenica region yesterday



Milosevic faces cruise missile storm

Defence planners are keen to retain an element of surprise, reports Michael Evans, defence editor

surface ships, two American attack submarines and the Royal Navy's nuclear-powered submarine, all in the Adriatic and Mediterranean. The Navy Tomahawks have a range of 800 miles.

In the Commons, George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, confirmed that HMS *Splendid* was in the area and "available for operations in connection with the crisis in Kosovo".

Despite the formidable firepower, allied aircrews would face much more dangerous air defence than they did over Bosnia-Herzegovina during the bombing campaign in 1995, and the anti-aircraft threat confronting American and British planes every day

over southern and northern Iraq. Paul Beaver, of Jane's Information Group, said: "Yugoslavia is a smaller country than Iraq and its air defence systems are totally integrated."

The surface-to-air missiles have also been updated with Russian technology, especially the mobile Sam 6s.

The Sam missile radars had also been given a new anti-jamming capability, he said, which would make it more difficult for allied aircraft to hit their targets.

fighters and 20 of the deadly F15E Strike Eagles, flown last month to the Italian base of Aviano from RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk. About ten tank-busting A10 Thunderbolts are also at Aviano, redeployed from Spangdahlem in Germany.

The aircraft with the biggest firepower are the B52s, which delivered 40 per cent of all weapons dropped by coalition forces during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, and the B2 Spirit Stealth bomber, located at Whiteman air force base in Missouri.

The B2, which would fly non-stop from Missouri to Yugoslavia with mid-air refuelling, has a wing span equivalent to more than half the length of a football pitch but a radar signature the size of a bird, making it one of the most difficult aircraft for the Yugoslav radars to spot.

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Yeltsin has IMF on his mind

FROM ANNA BLINDY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday at last submitted the 1993 Start-2 nuclear arms reduction treaty to the Duma for ratification. The move, on the eve of his Prime Minister's visit to Washington, is being interpreted as an attempt to mollify the Americans and so encourage the International Monetary Fund to come up with some money.

Despite mounting tension between Russia and America over Kosovo, it is considered unlikely in Moscow that Nato will carry out airstrikes during Yevgeni Primakov's visit. But Moscow is in no position to argue about it. Mr Primakov is now desperate for at least some of the delayed \$4.6 billion (£2.8 billion) instalment of the IMF stabilisation loan and is keen to show that Russia is playing by the rules.

The country is now the IMF's biggest borrower and is so impoverished that this year's budget is \$25 billion, a sum the United States spends in under a week.

Leading article, page 19

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The home of a Madurese immigrant is torched in ethnic clashes in Kalimantan

Borneo sinks into ethnic bloodletting

MORE than 100 people have been killed on Borneo island in ethnic clashes among Indonesians in which victorious warriors have been parading the heads of victims. The ritual savagery has forced thousands to flee their homes which have been summarily pillaged and torched.

Thousands have now taken refuge in Pontianak, the regional capital of Kalimantan or Indonesian Borneo. Reports said more than 15,000 Madurese fled in cars and boats or were evacuated in military trucks to escape the gangs of ethnic Malay, Dayak and Bugis men hunting them down with spears, sickles, pitchforks, daggers, bamboo staves and swords. Bodies of victims have been cut open and their hearts eaten.

Security officials admitted yesterday that the death toll of 114 accounted only for the bodies counted by the military. Many more are believed to have died. General Wiranto, the Armed Forces commander, said yesterday that he was deploying more troops amid concern that the unrest might spread.

Minority reaps bitter harvest of Jakarta's land policy, writes David Watts

For the most part the military has stayed clear of the conflict. Police and soldiers did not intervene as rioters in the town of Sambas systematically smashed and burnt homes after home. Security forces have passed severed heads in the road without stopping. They have let armed men roar



through towns on motorcycles and in lorries.

Even ethnic Chinese, the frequent target of resentment elsewhere in Indonesia because they dominate commerce, are pitching in. As gangs ransacked and burned houses near Sambas, Chinese shopkeepers drove up in a van and distributed boxes of water and dried noodles.

Even though many Madurese moved to Borneo decades ago or were born on the island, they have been subject to suspicion and periodic attacks by the indigenous people. The conflict is as much about racial prejudice as disputes over jobs or land.

The Madurese were moved into Kalimantan by government fiat over the years since Madura island is extremely poor and barely able to support its population of three million. Resentment among the local communities has been mounting as job opportunities have gone to the Madurese.

The Indonesian authorities have consistently failed to deal with complaints against the Madurese. The most immediate cause of the unrest appears



Two tribesmen congratulate each other after burning homes in northwest Kalimantan, where a Malay woman and her Madurese grandchild, below, were among those forced to take refuge in a military barracks

to be the failure to bring to justice two Madurese men who were involved in a killing in January of three people, two Malays and a Dayak.

In similar bloodletting, in late 1996 and early 1997, Dayak men assaulted Madurese communities, and soldiers trying to halt the fighting fired on mobs in some instances. Human rights groups say up to 500 people died.

Indonesia's transmigration policy, in which landless farmers are moved to other provinces, has been carried out for more than ten years using foreign aid in spite of the ethnic tensions inherent in the strategy. The policy has been aimed principally at relieving tensions and overcrowding on Java to make life better for the elite Javanese who have little time for unsophisticated tribal people such as the Dayaks and the Madurese.

The authoritarian regime of former President Suharto was largely successful in keeping a

lid on the social tensions that have always lingered in Indonesia, which has 210 million people and more than 13,000 islands. But his tight controls have unraveled as Indonesia moves toward democracy.

For the Government in Jakarta a continuing failure to address the ethnic and regional tensions could store up more trouble for it at a time when there is serious concern being expressed about the viability of the Indonesian archipelago continuing to remain under one administration.

The ethnic problems in Kalimantan come after weeks of religious clashes between Christians and Muslims on the spice island of Ambon.

For the moment East Timor is enjoying a period of quiet after violent clashes between pro-Indonesian and pro-independence factions. Aoch, on the northern tip of Sumatra and the seat of an historically powerful sultanate, has long wanted to secede.



WORLD SUMMARY

China-US links hit 'low point'

Hong Kong: William Perry, the former US Defence Secretary, said yesterday that growing anti-Chinese rhetoric in Washington posed one of the greatest risks to security in the Asia-Pacific area. He told the Asia Society: "I cannot point to a time in recent history when I was more concerned about the relationship." He added that opposition to the US policy of China engagement seems to be growing and could yet gain the ascendancy. (Reuters)

Reef talks open

Manila: China took a hard-line stance at a "confidence-building" meeting between itself and the Philippines over Beijing's military structures on the disputed Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands.

Cyclone strikes

Perth: Cyclone Vance, with winds of up to 185mph, left a trail of destruction along the northwest coast of Western Australia. Exmouth, 800 miles northwest of Perth, bore the brunt. (AFP)

Beduin must go

Jerusalem: Israel is preparing to deport to Egypt some 800 Beduin who fled the Sinai following a blood feud with a rival tribe. It is also seeking assurances about how Egypt will protect the Beduin.

Prisoner swap

Islamabad: Pakistan and India swapped civilian prisoners for the first time in ten years, the Foreign Minister, Sartaj Aziz, said. Pakistan handed over 15 in exchange for 43 at the border near Lahore. (AFP)

Cult man charged

Melbourne: Alistair Laishko-chav, 71, a cult leader with nine wives and 65 children, faces 22 charges including indecent assault and causing injury to four children aged eight, nine and ten. (AFP)



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Culture clash as France grapples with sleaze

A SPATE of scandals involving sex, fraud and nepotism has catapulted France into a struggle between Gallic flamboyance and northern European rectitude.

Amid the fallout from Edith Cresson's ignominious departure from Brussels, the French have been stunned by sleaze allegations against President Chirac and Roland Dumas, the country's most senior judge. The traditional shrug with which French society has greeted such affairs in the past has suddenly been made to look misplaced in the wake of the European Commission's resignation.

In an interview yesterday, M. Dumas admitted that it would be very difficult for him to remain as head of the Constitutional Council, the French equivalent of the US Supreme Court. His comment was

stark evidence of the tensions pulling at a country that feels both pride and guilt at its Mediterranean roots.

Widespread sympathy for M. Dumas emphasises French attachment to the cultural style established by Napoleon. But that co-exists with a recognition that such customs place France at odds with the democratic accountability demanded by northern European electorates.

Many politicians have grudgingly accepted the view that they will have to change their ways if they want to remain a force in Europe, although some are still convinced that it is the dull, honest, no-sex northerners who will have to change.

The Cresson affair has been enormously important because French people have been able to see what criteria other coun-

Customary Gallic shrug deemed inadequate by northern European states, writes Adam Sage

tries use," Michel Martin-Roland, an author and commentator, said. "They were astonished at the Commission's resignation. This is the start of big changes."

He cited the Dumas scandal as a case in point. Instinctively, voters are sympathetic to the handsome 76-year-old former Foreign Minister. So what if he had a mistress? they ask. So what if the mistress was given Fr660 million (£6.7 million) to lobby him on behalf of the oil group, Elf Aquitaine? So what if some of the money found its way into his bank account?

Yet although the French can under-

stand their leaders' need for a little sex and money, they cannot forgive anyone who brings *grandeur* into disrepute. And that is what M. Dumas is perceived to have done. His fellow citizens may smile at his antics, but they realise, in the wake of the crisis in Brussels, that he looks like an irresponsible clown to northern eyes.

Alain Madelin, leader of the right-wing Liberal Democracy party, said: "Roland Dumas is giving France an awful image."

As a result, most voters agree with M. Madelin that M. Dumas should resign. Similar arguments apply to Mme Cres-

son. In France, the nepotism that brought her downfall is a way of life. Indeed, it would have been mean of her to refuse a job to her long-time friend, René Berthelot, many believe. According to the journalist, Christine Ockrent, Mme Cresson fell victim to the "rigid, hypocritical Protestant culture that is dominant in Europe".

Like most of her compatriots, Mme Ockrent is dismissive of that culture, "with its obsession about sex". Yet she accepts that France must adapt to it or face the fate that befell Mme Cresson. "The tendency is towards more transparency, even if we will never become Swedish," she said.

But there are limits to the evolution. Last week it emerged that an investigating magistrate had obtained a letter impli-

ing from 1993. Yvan Bot, the state prosecutor, ruled on Friday that there was strong evidence to suggest that M. Chirac had been guilty of fraud. But M. Bot added that the head of state enjoyed immunity as long as he remained in office. Yesterday, politicians and commentators closed ranks around M. Chirac in a sign that old Gallic reflexes die hard, no matter what the northern Europeans say.

A brief look at history suggests that M. Chirac will survive. For the past 200 years periodic bouts of popular anger have invariably been followed by the quest for a ruler with panache, an iron fist and the ability to turn a blind eye to misdemeanours. From Bonaparte to de Gaulle and Mitterrand, such leaders have always been appreciated.

Blair backs Prodi to lead reformed EU

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR, AND CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

TONY BLAIR is expected to back Romano Prodi, the former Italian Prime Minister, as the next head of the European Commission and the man he wants to be Europe's "chief executive" into the next century.

Amid signs that Europe's leaders may now try to settle on a successor to Jacques Santer at the two-day summit in Berlin, Mr Blair was reported last night to regard Signor Prodi as a man of "considerable ability, a real reformer and a high-quality person".

Over recent days Mr Blair has let it be known that he would be happy with both Signor Prodi and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister. But he has spoken to Mr Kok who has given indications he will not throw his hat into the ring.

Other European Union states have also indicated they will back Signor Prodi, in particular Germany, which holds the European Union presidency. Giving an upbeat view, Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, said the EU leaders hoped to put forward the name of the new nominee

to the European Parliament for its endorsement early next month. That would mean reaching a unanimous accord in Berlin.

While Signor Prodi is by far the most likely candidate, a final accord will be complicated by the need to achieve a deal on revamping EU finances in Berlin. The presidency decision will be part of the horse-trading among leaders over reforming the EU budget.

Britain offered warm praise yesterday for the way the German presidency, bitterly attacked last month by the French Government, had handled budget negotiations.

That appeared to be confirmation that Britain now expects Gerhard Schröder to step back from a row over Britain's £2 billion rebate. Britain supports ideas to amend the way EU budget contributions are made, moving away from the present VAT-based system to one tilted towards gross national product. That would have the impact of reducing Britain and Germany's gross contributions; as a result the size of the rebate would also fall.



Aleksandr Lebed, still busy freeing Russian hostages from Chechnya, is embroiled in a Krasnoyarsk power struggle that he must win if he wants to be President

Lebed offers Russia recipe for iron rule

Anna Blundy meets a general talking tough on law and order

RUSSIA is a brutal country and people need to be taught what they can and cannot do. So growls Aleksandr Lebed, gritty Governor of Krasnoyarsk and a key presidential contender. He adds: "Why do people kill wolves? Because the wolves interfere with and threaten their way of life."

General Lebed, 48, is a fervent believer in the death penalty and a passionate opponent of Russia's two-year moratorium on capital punishment. "The murderer is not a man, but a beast who should be shot," he says — a view many crime-weary Russians are likely to support.

As the present regime sets about destroying itself with a depressingly familiar round of scandals and in-fighting, the general, with his military abruptness and no-nonsense air, is beginning to seem to some an attractive alternative.

It is a tense time for the general, who is head of the Independent Organisation for Bringing Peace to the North Caucasus. Peace there is fragile and events have conspired to shatter it — not least a television report that a recently freed Russian soldier, taken hostage in 1991, was bought and sold as a slave during his eight years of captivity.

As the man who signed the peace with Chechnya after its

disastrous war with Russia in 1996, General Lebed is naturally worried by the mounting threat of conflict.

Just as Aslan Maskhadov, President of Chechnya, and Yevgeni Primakov, the Russian Prime Minister, agreed to meet, a bomb in Vladikavkaz, capital of North Ossetia, killed 80 people, and an assassination attempt was made on Mr Maskhadov himself.

Both events have made the freeing of Russian hostages from Chechnya — one of General Lebed's principal goals — more difficult. Not the most charismatic of men, his strong point is action, not conversation. As he discussed the hostages, his desk in Russia's Upper House of Parliament is strewn with letters and photographs from the families of some 100 Russian servicemen missing in Chechnya.

He clearly feels a deep responsibility for those left behind. They are not high-profile hostages and little publicity is given to their plight.

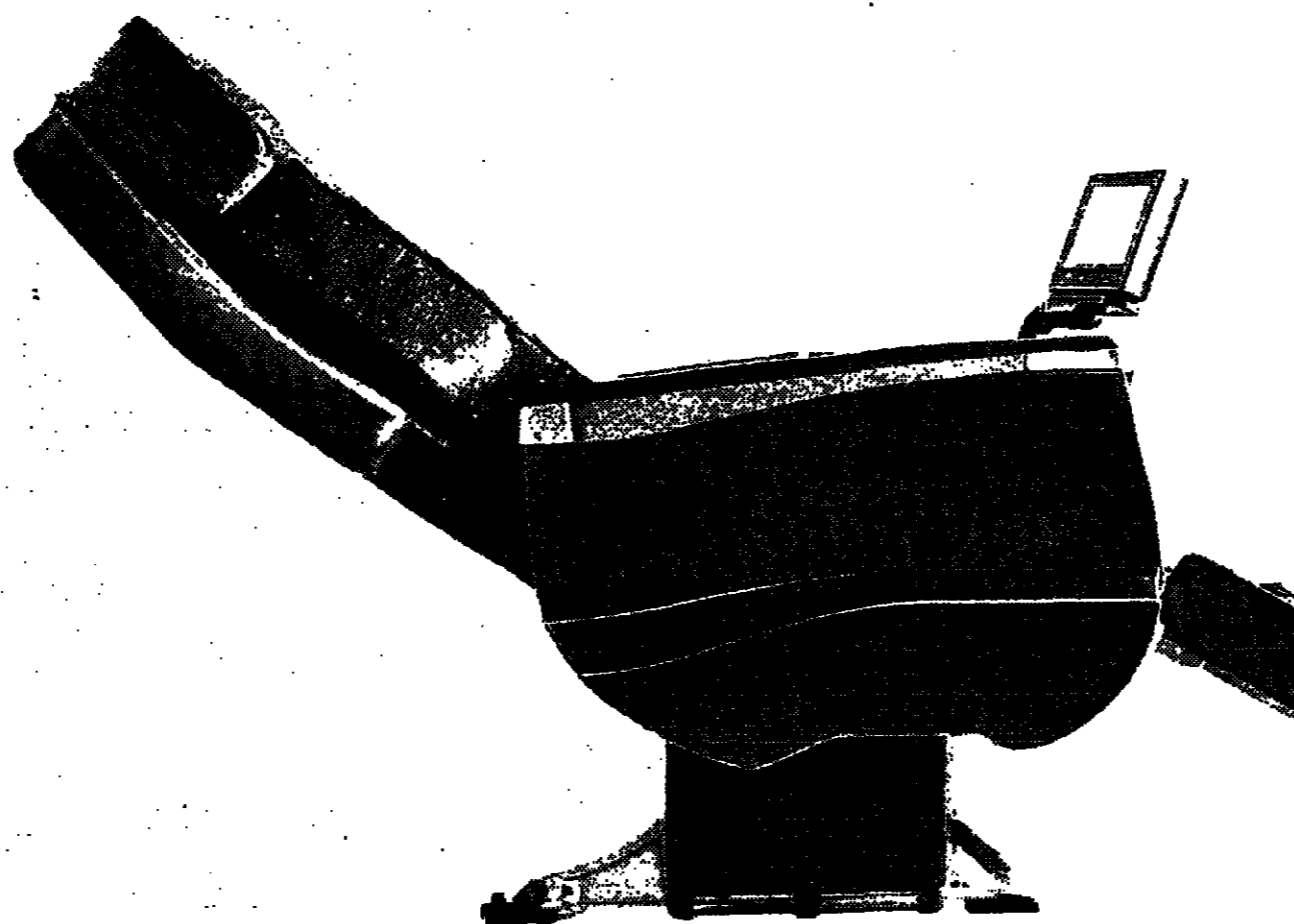
General Lebed controls two groups of hostage-seekers, each comprising five men. Hostages are taken usually for money or as a bargaining tool to win the release of Chechens imprisoned in Russia. The job of his men is to negotiate ransoms down to a "reasonable amount" — £6,000 to £12,000 — and then bargain.

He says that he has never paid a kopek for a hostage, but his people do arrange for payment to be made. If one group of Chechens has demanded a ransom for a hostage and another has no hostage but is willing to pay for the release of a relative held in Russia, his men encourage them to do a deal, then effect the exchange.

The general's chances of gaining the presidency are debatable and his springboard governorship has proved less successful than he might have liked. In Krasnoyarsk he has become embroiled in a power struggle with a local tycoon. "Nobody has won the battle yet," he says. "It remains to be seen who is stronger — the law or the criminal."

Analysts agree that only if he proves victorious will his presidential bid — he is currently trailing fourth in presidential succession polls — be taken seriously in 2000.

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Business
INTERCONTINENTAL





Anderson: was held captive for six years

Hostage sues Iran for \$100m

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

THE American journalist Terry Anderson who was held hostage for six years in Lebanon by Hezbollah, yesterday sued Iran — as the sponsor of his captors — for damages of \$100 million (£61.7 million).

In doing so, he put himself on a collision course with the Clinton Administration, which is blocking the efforts of Americans to recover damages.

Lawyers for Mr Anderson — working on a no win, no fee basis — say that government objections include possible future complications in dealing with the countries. Iran, for example, holds US property on its soil, just as the US Government has custody of Iranian property in America.

Mr Anderson has little expectation of receiving any money soon, but said: "If we don't file a suit, we won't be sitting at the table whenever Iran and the US settle accounts."

The Administration refuses to explain its position, which runs counter to the wishes of Congress, which three years ago passed an act enabling Americans to go to court.

Mr Anderson, 51, a Middle East correspondent for Associated Press, was held, shackled and blindfolded, Iran denies sponsoring Hezbollah.

Murder trial for 'Doctor Death'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN WASHINGTON

JACK KEVORKIAN, the euthanasia campaigner who has presided over the suicide of more than 130 people in the past nine years and earned the nickname "Dr Death", went on trial for murder yesterday after he was seen by millions on prime-time US television administering a lethal solution to a terminally ill man.

A videotape of Dr Kevorkian ending the life of Thomas Youk, a 52-year-old sufferer of a motor neuron disease, was broadcast on the CBS television network in November, prompting widespread outrage.

Dr Kevorkian, 70, a retired pathologist, has been brought to trial four times for breaking laws banning assisted suicide, bringing three acquittals and one mistrial — but has never faced a murder charge. He could be jailed for life if convicted, while the charge of illegally delivering a controlled substance is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

The trial was provoked by Dr Kevorkian in his crusade to allow assisted suicide. But as well as marking a milestone in the euthanasia debate, the case may set a legal precedent: the Michigan jury will be able to see the defendant committing the act which the prosecution claims is murder.

After filming, and narrat-

ing, the death of Mr Youk, Dr Kevorkian sent the 18-minute videotape to the CBS news programme 60 Minutes. "You killed him?", the interviewer asks. "I did, but it's going to be manslaughter, not murder," Dr Kevorkian replies.

While he has insisted that the trial will redefine the issue of assisted suicide, others, including several former supporters, believe his most brazen act of defiance is a reflection of the retired pathologist's increasing self-absorption.

"He wants to be a martyr. This is about focusing attention on himself," Geoffrey Fieger, the lawyer who successfully represented him in four earlier trials, said. "He didn't have to push the envelope this far. This fits the legal definition of murder."

Dr Kevorkian will present his own defence, with the aid of four lawyers. The law holds that whether Mr Youk consented to die is immaterial, but while Dr Kevorkian's acts may be murder technically, his defence is likely to hinge on an emotional appeal to the jurors to consider the suffering of the victim.

Mr Youk suffered from Lou Gehrig's disease, a progressively fatal illness, and the videotape shows him barely able to speak, breathe or move his limbs. In the television programme, which sharply boost-



Jack Kevorkian with one of his suicide machines. The retired pathologist hopes the murder trial jury will sympathise with his wish to end Thomas Youk's suffering

ed viewer ratings for CBS, Dr Kevorkian insists that Mr Youk was "choking to death ... I couldn't have him suffer in that frame of mind, because

if the man is terrified, it's up to me to dispel that terror."

Patrick Keenan, a Detroit legal expert, said: "Kevorkian's victory depends on get-

ting people on the jury that have, and will act on, those feelings enough to overcome the effect of the evidence of first-degree murder."

Falklands cut off in Pinochet protest

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ANGERED by the continued detention of General Pinochet, Chile will this week cut off the Falkland Islands from South

America. The last flight linking the islands with southern Chile will leave on Saturday.

The Falklands Government is making last-minute efforts to keep the vital air bridge going, and has denounced what

it calls the blatantly political decision not to renew the weekly flight. But the islanders insist they will never accept a proposed alternative link to Uruguay that would go via Argentina. Uruguay is ready to

operate a flight to the Falklands, but only if it touches down in Buenos Aires. The two countries are partners in the Mercosur trading bloc, and Montevideo will not sanction a link to the islands which Argentina claims without approval from Buenos Aires.

"The moment that we have direct and exclusive air links through Argentina, they will have very firm control over us," Mike Summers, a leading Falklands councillor, said. "To be forced to fly through Argentina is not acceptable. In the short term we prefer to be without a link. It is a nuisance, but not a disaster."

The islanders' rejection of the proposal comes amid warnings from Argentina that

it may toughen its stand over the Falklands, believing that the "charm offensive" has proved fruitless.

Lan Chile, the airline operating the link, has been summoned to a meeting with the Chilean Foreign Ministry today. Falklanders were yesterday pessimistic that the service would continue, but said it would cost Chile £6 million in lost trade if it was scrapped.

Isolation from South America could deal a devastating blow to the fledgling tourist industry in the Falklands and it will cut off the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables.

Without the Chilean link, the Falklands will have to rely on the RAF flights to Britain via Ascension Island.

Israel envoy 'had affair with a spy'

FROM ROSS DUNN
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S Ambassador in Pretoria has been investigated over an affair with a woman reportedly working for South African military intelligence.

In an internal report the Israeli Foreign Ministry concluded that the diplomat, Uri Oren, had an intimate relationship with the woman whose name has not been published but headed what it described as the South African defence force's "foreign relations unit".

Despite the scandal Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and the ministry's director-general, Eitan Betsur, decided that Mr Oren should not be recalled and could continue in his post.

"It is a personal matter. As far as we are concerned, nothing prevents Oren from continuing to carry out his job," an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman told the Ha'aretz newspaper, which broke the story. This indicates that the Israeli Foreign Ministry found no evidence that the relationship had put at risk the security of the Jewish State.

Israeli intelligence agencies are well-known for their use of women to help trap their prey. In 1986 a young female Israeli agent working for Mossad aided in the capture of Mordechai Vanunu, who had revealed Israeli nuclear secrets to The Sunday Times. Unaware of her true identity, he followed her from London to Rome, where he was kidnapped, taken to Israel and sentenced for treason.

Mr Oren has been ordered to end his ties with the officer and has pledged to do so.

Piggy-bank raiders play the market

Wall St lures
young investors

home from
school, writes

James Bone

THE next generation of United States capitalists is being born as an increasing number of teenagers raid their piggy banks to invest their pocket money in the sky-rocketing stockmarket.

The Internet has made "day-trading" on Wall Street an after-school hobby that competes with skateboarding and hanging out at the local McDonald's among the computer-savvy kids known as "Generation Y".

Tens of thousands of children, some as young as eight or nine, have started playing the bull market through so-called "custodial accounts" set up by their parents to help them to invest their pocket money.

"Junior Achievement" investment classes are now offered even to primary school pupils, and share clubs are booming in secondary schools as young investors seek to emulate the skills of the titans of Wall Street.

To meet the burgeoning demand, Disney recently issued a series of educational videos about investing with such titles as *Tyrannosaurus Debt* and *Walkin' on Wall Street*. One cartoon, starring a talking pigeon which buys shares in the fictional Whiz Bang Cola company, drums home its message with the refrain: "Remember the rule. Buy low, sell high. Take your piece of the pie."

An increasing number of websites provide investment advice to those too young to buy a six-pack of beer. Some are even run by teenagers themselves.

After selling his small software firm for \$30,000 (£18,000), Jay Liebowitz, 16, from Northridge, California, quadrupled his money on the stock market and decided to set up his own on-line service. His web home page has now received more than two million hits.

Minors under 18 need a custodian to open a brokerage account, so there is no official tally of under-age investors. But an estimated 34 per cent of recent school leavers, aged 18 to 24, hold shares at present.

Parents, encouraged by

their own success in America's long-running boom and fearful that the social security system will be bankrupt by the time their children retire, are eager to teach their children how they can become successful investors.

To cater to this increasing need, Wall Street firms have opened funds devoted to the young investor.

The Stein Roe Young Investor Fund, for instance, which manages about \$700 million (£435 million), sends educational materials to its youthful clients to enable them to understand their share holdings.

Its young investors would have learnt a cruel lesson last year, however. The fund's 15 per cent return significantly underperformed when compared with the leading market indices.

The Stock Market Game 2000, a twice-yearly share-picking contest for 9 to 15-year-olds organised by the Securities Industry Association, has seen participation rise by 50 per cent over the past year, to 200,000.

Now available over the Internet (www.simg2000.org), the game comes with copious teaching materials and is increasingly integrated into school mathematics or social studies classes.

"Given the fact that more than 40 per cent of American households are investing directly or indirectly, educating investors or potential investors about how the system operates is important," Margaret Draper, the association's spokesman, said.

"The great thing is how kids in disadvantaged areas have realised that there are possibilities beyond their block," she said. "They have realised that maybe they can become investment bankers too."



A look ahead: healthcare in the "Century of Biology"

By Dr. David McGibney

A Nobel prize-winning chemist recently predicted that "this was the century of physics and chemistry... it is clear that the next century will be the century of biology." At the heart of this new century of science will be the new genetic information scientists are just beginning to understand — information that will transform our lives in the century to come.

This is the compelling case for basic science of a very high order. The conventional wisdom has always been that we in Britain are very good at this kind of "pure" science, but rather lacklustre when it comes to applying the results. Our industry's experience contradicts this supposition. The evolution of medicine in this century coincided with the evolution of the pharmaceutical industry in Britain, the bringing together of research and theory with manufacturing and the ability to meet demand. This coupling of new scientific discovery with the ability to make it available will continue to propel the evolution from the old way of simply managing pain, to ameliorating disease, to, someday soon, preventing disease in the first place.

To turn this optimistic view of the future into tangible results, we need a world-leading scientific infrastructure, investment in basic research initiatives, a pool of world class scientists, and an education system which encourages students to enter the sciences and gives them the encouragement and facilities to reach their potential.

In short, a steady stream of strong and fundamental research is needed to underpin a constant stream of innovation,

A world of ideas on public policy.

producing medicines that allow people to lead active and productive lives while suffering from conditions that once would have left them as invalids, or worse, dead. And the pharmaceuticals of the next century are going to move beyond merely keeping people alive or relieving pain to actually unlocking the very mystery of what causes disease. The decoding of the human genome is no longer in the realm of science fiction. We are already using molecular genetics to produce vaccines and drugs such as human insulin. We are also using cloned human proteins as targets for new drug discovery. The human genome project offers challenges and opportunities beyond our imagination. It is here that we find the most compelling case for a strong and vibrant future for the pharmaceutical industry.

By 2025, a third or more of populations in the developed world will be over 60. These people will be much better informed about healthcare options than historically has been the case, and the demand for quality healthcare will increase. In the years ahead, we may see drugs that treat frailty and prevent falls in the elderly, mend broken bones quickly, and cause wounds to heal overnight. By continually reducing the disability rates in the elderly population, such treatments have the potential to lower healthcare costs. These are the kind of life-saving and life-enhancing products that will be in demand as we move into the future. Whether or not we can meet this demand will depend largely on the policies of the countries where these innovations are taking place.

The United States and the UK are currently the preferred sites for healthcare investment, because of their perceived willingness and ability to support

innovation. This could be in danger, however, if our attempts at healthcare reform continue to focus on cutting spending by reducing the cost of healthcare or by restricting the drugs budget, rather than by trying to lower the cost of disease. At present, the UK is lagging well behind all of its trading partners, both in terms of the percentage of GDP spent on healthcare, and in the private funding of

We must be willing to invest in the new technologies in order to reap their ultimate benefit — a reduction in the cost of disease

healthcare. We would like to see legislators engage with our industry to confront these issues and "think the unthinkable" about healthcare. Given our proud history of healthcare discovery, and our promising future of further innovation, we must find imaginative ways to pay for quality healthcare for all. It certainly cannot be by the publicly funded monopoly we have at present. Here, as in America, we must be willing to invest in the new technologies in order to reap their ultimate benefit — a reduction in the cost of disease to our economies and our societies.

Dr. David McGibney is Senior Vice-President, Medical Research and Development, Europe, Pfizer Central Research, Sandwich, Kent. This article is based on his recent "Century Lecture" delivered to the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce. The full lecture will be available from the RSC, or John Adam Street, London WC2N 6EZ later in the year and can be found on the Pfizer website at <http://www.pfizer.com/pfizer/policy-consult.html>.



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هكذا من الأول

Is this the end of the hospital killer bug?

In early December last year, Joné Ashbourne's family's greatest hope was that she would live beyond Christmas. Mrs Ashbourne, of Notting Hill, London, is now alive and well, fever-free, climbing stairs like an 18-year-old and looking after her house and husband. The only outward difference is that after surviving two potentially fatal diseases — non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and bacterial endocarditis — she is now a redhead, rather than a blonde.

Mrs Ashbourne became infected with multi-resistant bacteria last autumn, which had caused septicæmia and an endocarditis, an inflammation of the inner lining and valves of the heart. An abscess also formed around the root of the mitral valve that would in time have destroyed the valve and caused fatal heart failure. Mrs Ashbourne was fortunate as she was one of the earliest patients in the UK to be treated with Linezolid, a new class of antibiotics, the oxazolidinones, the details of which are being presented at a symposium of the Ninth European Congress of Clinical Microbiology in Berlin today.

Linezolid, manufactured by Pharmacia & Upjohn, is effective against methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), the dreaded and often lethal hospital organism, other gram-positive bacteria resistant to such powerful antibiotics as vancomycin, trovafloxacin, teicoplanin, as well as the more mundane ones regularly used in general practice.

Laboratory testing has failed to find any gram-positive organism which is resistant to Linezolid at present. It has proved to be the most active anti-bacterial agent tested against vancomycin-resistant organisms. Most drug-resistant problems stem from staphylococci, streptococci and enterococci. These are the strains that are the basis of horror stories in the press and these are the organisms that are sensitive to Linezolid. Mrs Ashbourne's septicæmia and her mitral valve abscess was the result of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus epidermidis (MRSE).

In most people this gives rise to no more than a nasty infected pimple but in an immuno-compromised person, as she was to become after treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, it can cause serious problems. Mrs Ashbourne's medical adventure started in December 1997 when her Christmas was spoilt by what she assumed to be flu. She had a persistent temperature, higher in the evenings, but never more than about 100F, aching limbs and a feeling of unutterable weariness. In mid-January — still not over the "flu" — she noticed that she had a lump growing above her collarbone. Biopsies (removal of tissue for examination) showed that the swelling was caused by a gland infiltrated with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, cancer of the lymph glands.

Mrs Ashbourne had two courses of chemotherapy delivered through a Hickman line, a continuous intravenous drip which enables doctors to spare a patient repeated intravenous injections. By October the lump had disappeared and her chest was clear, but unfortunately the patient didn't feel better, and by November very much worse. Her temperature was 101F each evening, she was again tired and by now slightly breathless. Blood cultures revealed the septicæmia, presumably introduced through the Hickman line. The patient's resistance had been lowered by the chemotherapy and steroids and multi-resistant organisms had settled in her mitral valve damaged by rheumatic fever earlier in life. Although the organism was resistant to most antibiotics, there was some feeble response to vancomycin in the laboratory but even so Mrs Ashbourne's temperature didn't settle and she remained seriously ill. Fortunately, news of Linezolid's advent was beginning to be discussed at medical dinners and its manufacturers kindly agreed to release some for her on compassionate grounds. Once treated, Mrs Ashbourne lost symptoms of septicæmia and by Christmas her temperature was normal.

Vancomycin was discontinued when it began to affect kidney function, but Linezolid therapy was maintained. So good was the recovery that by January 15 Mrs Ashbourne was considered infection-free and fit to have a new artificial mitral valve fitted. The operation has been a complete success, examination has shown that the valve works well, she is not breathless, her feet are not swelling and equally importantly, there is no sign of any recurrence of her lymphoma. At surgery, the pus in the abscess was sterile — the antibiotic had done its work. Mrs Ashbourne primarily owes her life to the inventive research of Pharmacia & Upjohn which produces Linezolid, but also to her oncologist, cardiologist and heart surgeon and as well, of course, to the propensity of doctors to enjoy medical chat when they wine and dine.

MEDICINE CHEST

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

Saved by a mother's courage

A 17-year-old boy, thought to be brain-dead, has survived against all odds. Moira Petty reports

Gregory Dygas was an unexceptional teenager, a shy youth who worked diligently at school and always had a smile for his neighbours. Head of the family is his mother Teresa, a divorcee, who has scrimped on social security benefits to bring up her children. This seemingly unremarkable family has been transformed over the past 11 months by a tragedy.

On April 7 last year, Gregory, then 16, collapsed and "died" while in the throes of an asthma attack. He was resuscitated but 11 days later a second cardiac arrest increased the severity of the initial brain damage and left him more deeply comatose. Several more times he cheated death as Teresa sat by his bed, willing him to live. Gregory's father, who is paralysed after a stroke, has visited Gregory. But his illness means that it is Teresa who arranges Gregory's care.

In the months that followed, Teresa waged a battle for her son's life. Defying doctors who said that he was brain-dead, she refused to permit withdrawal of his medication, claiming that he was communicating with his eyes. Teresa mounted a sophisticated press and television campaign aimed at shaming the Lincolnshire Health Authority into paying for her son's treatment in a specialist unit, rather than seeing him die in a nursing home.

Five months after admission to Holly Lodge Traumatic

Brain Injury Unit, near Sheffield, Gregory and his family have proved the experts wrong. He is semi-conscious, responsive to visitors and other stimuli, has a stable heart-rate and blood-pressure readings. The health authority says that as long as his condition continues to improve it will meet the £1,400 a week in costs at the private unit. His next assessment is due in June.

"We are living on our nerves wondering if they will withdraw the money," Teresa says. "He has made such wonderful progress since he came here but we have had to fight every inch of the way." The Dygas family's predicament has wider implications. In July, the British Medical Association will issue a directive relating to withdrawal of treatment for critically ill patients.

It is a five-hour bus journey over almost 100 miles from Teresa's bungalow in Louth, Lincolnshire, to Holly Lodge, which lies on the edge of the Yorkshire Moors. There I meet Teresa, a slender 48-year-old, who admits to having existed on coffee and cigarettes for the past year. With her is Gregory's twin sister, Isabel. Gregory lies motionless, his twisted ribcage giving his body an involuntary curve, his arms and hands contorted by muscle spasms.

Mandy Hassall, a specialist nurse at the Holly Lodge unit, confirms that Gregory is not in a vegetative state despite previous pronouncements. "He is going through a programme



Gregory Dygas: his mother Teresa watches over him at the Holly Lodge Traumatic Brain Injury Unit, near Sheffield, where he lies semi-conscious yet responsive to visitors and other stimuli



of sensory stimulation," she explains. "For example, we will stimulate the olfactory system by giving him different smells, then do the same for his other senses, observing his responses. He is relaxed, comfortable and not in pain. Teresa was here when we first sat him in a special chair and he smiled several times."

Opposite Gregory's bed, juxtaposed with pictures of his idol, Diana Ross, stand statues of Jesus and Mary. Teresa bought them to mark his 17th birthday (December 24) and Christmas. "He always wanted to go to America to see Diana Ross but I don't suppose that will be possible now," she says. It is far too early to make an accurate prognosis but the family and staff at Holly Lodge talk in terms of giving him the best quality of life possible.

Teresa says: "Everyone says it's a miracle that he's alive." Gregory suffered the attack while visiting a friend's house. Unable to breathe, he collapsed but still managed to plead for an ambulance. Paramedics spent 20 minutes resuscitating his lungs and resuscitating him.

Teresa was asked to wait in a relatives' room at Louth Hospital. "I was shaking from head to foot and needed to know if he was dead or alive," she says. "Later I learnt that it had taken three electric shocks to revive him."

Gregory was moved to intensive care in a hospital in Work-sop, 60 miles away. "They warned me I should spend the night with him but first I had to sort out my elderly mother and Roger, my younger son, who was asking for his tea."

Eight days later, he was taken off life-support and began opening his eyes. He was transferred back to Louth and had his tracheostomy tube removed. "His breathing was bad for two-and-a-half days and he had the second heart attack," Teresa says.

Another intensive-care unit bed was found, this time at Hull Royal Infirmary. In May, a neurosurgeon showed Gregory's brain scan to Teresa. "He said he was profoundly brain-damaged and would always be in a vegetative state," she says. "It was a matter of time before an infection or a blood clot killed him. They said they would not resuscitate him again and that was out of my hands. But I had the choice of whether or not to withdraw the antibiotics. They wanted to stop all the treatment and let him go but I would not agree. They said he was a shell and asked would he want to live like that? But I could see emotion in his eyes."

Teresa's greatest fear, knowing the doctors would not revive him, was that Gregory might suffer a heart attack. "I didn't want to watch him die. His huge blue eyes were frightened — I wrapped myself around him, pulled him to me." Teresa says that she felt under pressure to change her mind about his treatment. "It was a lot of money for one patient because it would be long-term. For that money they could do several transplants."

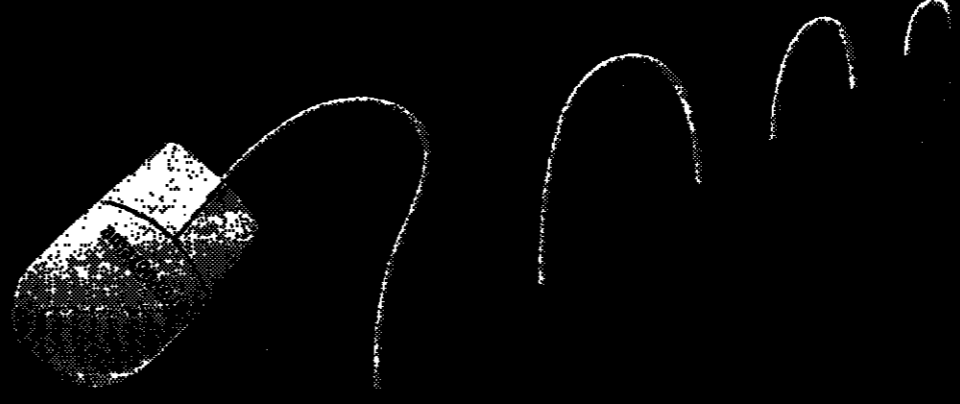
Twice Lincolnshire Health Authority decided not to send him to a nursing home: Teresa drummed up support from the media and Gregory was admitted to Holly Lodge in October.

"Right up to the end, doctors at Hull were saying Gregory was brain-dead," Teresa says. "He is still communicating with his eyes. When I talk to him emotionally and say I wish he'd taken his asthma more seriously, or that I feel guilty, his eyes fill with tears. When I tell him how well he's doing, his eyes are bright."

The Dygas family is no stranger to tragedy. Teresa's eldest son Robert died at 20 after an acute bronchial attack. "I was determined never to give up on Gregory," she says. "I don't want to lose a second son. I feel so strong about keeping him alive."

I learnt that it had taken three electric shocks to revive him

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BRUCE CHATWIN: A STORYTELLER'S LIFE

but he was never obvious about it

'He wasn't very nice to Elizabeth. I've seldom met a human being who exudes so much sex appeal with so comparatively little niceness. What does this boy want?'

21, 1965, in the chapel of Sweet Briar Farm. With marriage, a pattern emerged that would define Bruce's writing life: boundless enthusiasm dwindling into depression and inertia. He struggled to write his first book, which he wanted to call *The Nomadic Alternative*, for three years. One reason his book took so long was his distractibility: *The Nomadic Alternative* was only one of several projects he plotted at this time.

On March 21 Elizabeth wrote to her mother that Bruce's nomadic project was on hold. "He has got to know the cast of the English production of *Hair*, and one night last week was at a party talking to a theatrical agent who said they were looking for ideas for a really different, way-out musical, so Bruce sits down at the typewriter last week and writes a scenario for a musical about Akhenaten, involving the Mitannians, semi-nomadic people from Iraq, the Hittites and the Egyptians. Goodness knows if it will ever come off, but Bruce is thrilled."

Their paths crossed one day as Straker was heading to the Shaftesbury Theatre. "My God," yelled Bruce. "You're the image of Akhenaten." He dragged Straker to half the museums in London until he found a picture to back his theory. That night Bruce watched Straker's performance and the

idea for a musical took shape. A lack of musical training was no obstacle. "In a moment of enthusiasm, or rather, infatuated by a member of the cast, I wrote a scenario for a musical one bright spring day," he wrote to James Ivory. "I'm a sucker for theatrical camp."

On Straker's free day they would lunch at Le Casserole in the Kings Road or Inigo Jones in Covent Garden. Straker found the relationship puzzling. "I don't know if we had an affair. My day-to-day life had nothing to do with Bruce."

The project fizzled out and with it the relationship. "His energy frightened me," says Straker. "I found him overpowering, larger than life. There came a point when I knew I was important to him and didn't want it. I laughed at him when he said he loved me."

One weekend Bruce invited Straker to Holwell Farm to meet Elizabeth. "I was shocked at their relationship," says Straker. "I asked him about Elizabeth: 'How can you go on like this?' He said she liked the country and didn't like the city and she knew that side of him." Elizabeth suspected about Straker but did not know the extent of Bruce's infidelities. In none of them did he let himself go. James Ivory, who visited in the autumn of 1971, says: "As I strolled with him in an upstairs hall, he told me he had given up homosexuality, that he didn't have those feelings any more." Even so, the tensions between Bruce and his wife mounted.

On November 3 James Lees-Milne was invited to Holwell for dinner. "[Bruce] was not very nice to Elizabeth, who cooked a delicious dinner; whereas when he came to tea with me the day before he was

all charm. I have seldom met a human being who exudes so much sex appeal with so comparatively little niceness. What does this boy want?"

Elizabeth's family had become accustomed to finding one or other partner away. Visitors noticed her reduced circumstances. She relied on a steady trickle of cheques from her mother to cover bills. "I'm so broke I can only just eat nowadays," she wrote. "Thank heavens B is away as there is one less to feed and he likes to have proper meals anyway."

But she missed her husband: "Dear Max, well here I go again in hope one of these letters one day will reach you." Elizabeth was unlike most wives. "Love alters not when it alteration finds," she would say. Beyond the reverence was a genuine entente that had given the couple their nickname, "the Chatwins". Salman Rushdie says: "They were the only two people I know who could talk simultaneously, non-stop, for long periods of time about completely different subjects, while seemingly knowing exactly what the other was saying and not finding it a problem."

There was also their complicity. Jessie Wood and her husband Clem saw much of the Chatwins, who often stayed in their Paris flat. "Bruce would never have done anything that he did if he hadn't had this feeling for Elizabeth. I mean, can you imagine Bruce with anyone else?"

When he was 37 Bruce fell helplessly in love with Donald Richards, an Australian stockbroker ten years his junior, at a wedding in Oxfordshire in June 1977. Among the guests were the artist Keith Milow and a handsome man covered

in hay. "We'd been rolling in the cornfield adjacent to the party," says Milow. He introduced Bruce to Donald: "Something clicked which I was not prepared for."

Teddy Millington-Drake, who entertained Bruce and Donald on Patmos, said their meeting was "the big break in Bruce's life... It was the first time he'd committed his life to a man." Where Bruce was an extrovert, Donald was reticent and, unlike Bruce, uninhibitedly gay. "He was a sexy homosexual who jumped into bed immediately," says Peter Adam.

"Bruce saw Donald as a challenge," says Milow, "wild, sexual and hard to keep up with." He was possessed of "unbelievable eyes with black edges to them", according to Elizabeth. Adam understood the chemistry: "Bruce quite liked tarty men and he justified them if they could also read Rilke and knew Kafka wasn't a deodorant."

Whatever Elizabeth suspected of her husband's activities, she did not let on. She was used to people falling in love with him, and had taught herself not to be threatened. "I always felt he was going to come back. There was no point in confronting him. He didn't like showdowns at all."

In Italy, Beatrice von Rezzori asked Bruce: "Who is your best friend?" He replied: "I guess it's Elizabeth." There still existed a physical bond. In 1979 James Fox arrived at Holwell on his "very quiet motorbike", and caught Bruce and Elizabeth kissing. "I stopped in front of the kitchen window and saw this long, touching embrace between the couple, which was surprising because I had never conceived of such tenderness between them."

Along with the tenderness went a hurtful neglect. "He never told people he was married, I was the guilty secret," says Elizabeth. His frustration



Unfaithful friend: despite his infidelities, when asked "Who is your best friend?", Chatwin replied: "I guess it's Elizabeth"

TOMORROW

Sotheby's — and the rich collectors who wanted Chatwin 'body and soul'

Extracted from Bruce Chatwin by Nicholas Shakespeare, to be published by The Harvill Press on April 1 at £20. Times readers can buy it for £16 by calling The Times Bookshop, 0990-134459. Copyright Nicholas Shakespeare 1999



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How to end the great benefit fraud

Genetic testing would save us millions, says Frank Field

Last week the Government read the European Union the Riot Act on fraud. Now the spotlight moves closer to home. When, later this week, the Social Security Secretary, Alistair Darling, publishes the White Paper on social security fraud, MPs will want to know whether the building blocks are in place for the first-ever effective counter-fraud strategy. At least eight major initiatives are required.

A number involve securing the national insurance system. Each of us has a national insurance number, but there are millions of spare ones floating around the system, some of which are used fraudulently.

The first important task, therefore, is to set a five-year timetable to get rid of spare and bogus numbers. But at the rate the department has been working, it could take 200 years to achieve this simple objective.

Next, has the issuing of national insurance numbers been secured? In the ten weeks I had ministerial responsibility for fraud I found that there were no proper checks on the staff issuing numbers. While most staff are honest, the serious fraudsters are free to place their own people on the inside to issue counterfeit numbers.

The Government needs to back its tough talk with action to see that fraud is banished for good. The best way to ensure that a person is who they claim to be is by DNA testing. Instead of issuing NHS and child benefit numbers at birth, a single national insurance number could be issued, linked to a person's DNA.

This sample would then be used to prove identity whenever state benefits are claimed. Over time, this would give the national insurance system a security which it now so patently lacks. Banks already use DNA testing to protect their accounts, with no complaints from customers.

But how can proof of identity be best established in the meantime? Birth certificates, driving licences, and passports are currently used. Given the extent of counterfeiting these documents nobody knows which of them is the most secure. The truth is that no document is safe from counterfeiting unless it is linked to biometric information. So it is essential to determine which are the most and least reliable. Has the Government set in hand a regular sampling to find this out?

The Government also needs to work closely with other public bodies. This will prove harder than it sounds — for example, too many fraudulent claims for housing benefits by non-existent tenants have been aided and abetted by the Post Office. When they move, some housing benefit claimants ask the Post Office to send their giro on to their new address, from where they will also be claiming another housing benefit. Four years ago the Social Security Select Committee suggested that the Post Office

should stop forwarding gijos, but only within the past few weeks has it agreed to put the needs of taxpayers above those of fraudulent claimants.

Similarly, it is now possible to use data-matching to prevent fraud. The balance of the argument when deciding if such a practice is permissible must be changed and the Data Protection Registrar must be directed to allow it if, on balance, it protects public funds.

The Government must also listen carefully to the public. During the last Parliament the select committee received evidence from a dentist on the extent of prescription fraud. It was revealed that many people knew that the Government had ceased to check the back of prescription forms to ensure that free medicine was going to those legally entitled to it. It has taken five years for a new, more secure system to be introduced. The Department of Health estimates it will now be saving £75 million a year.

Likewise, the Civil Service closed shop must be opened up to outside experts. When the welfare state was established at the turn of the century, individuals such as William Beveridge were brought in to combine their specialist knowledge with the more general skills of civil servants. Beveridge learnt quickly and rose to become a Permanent Secretary by 1919.

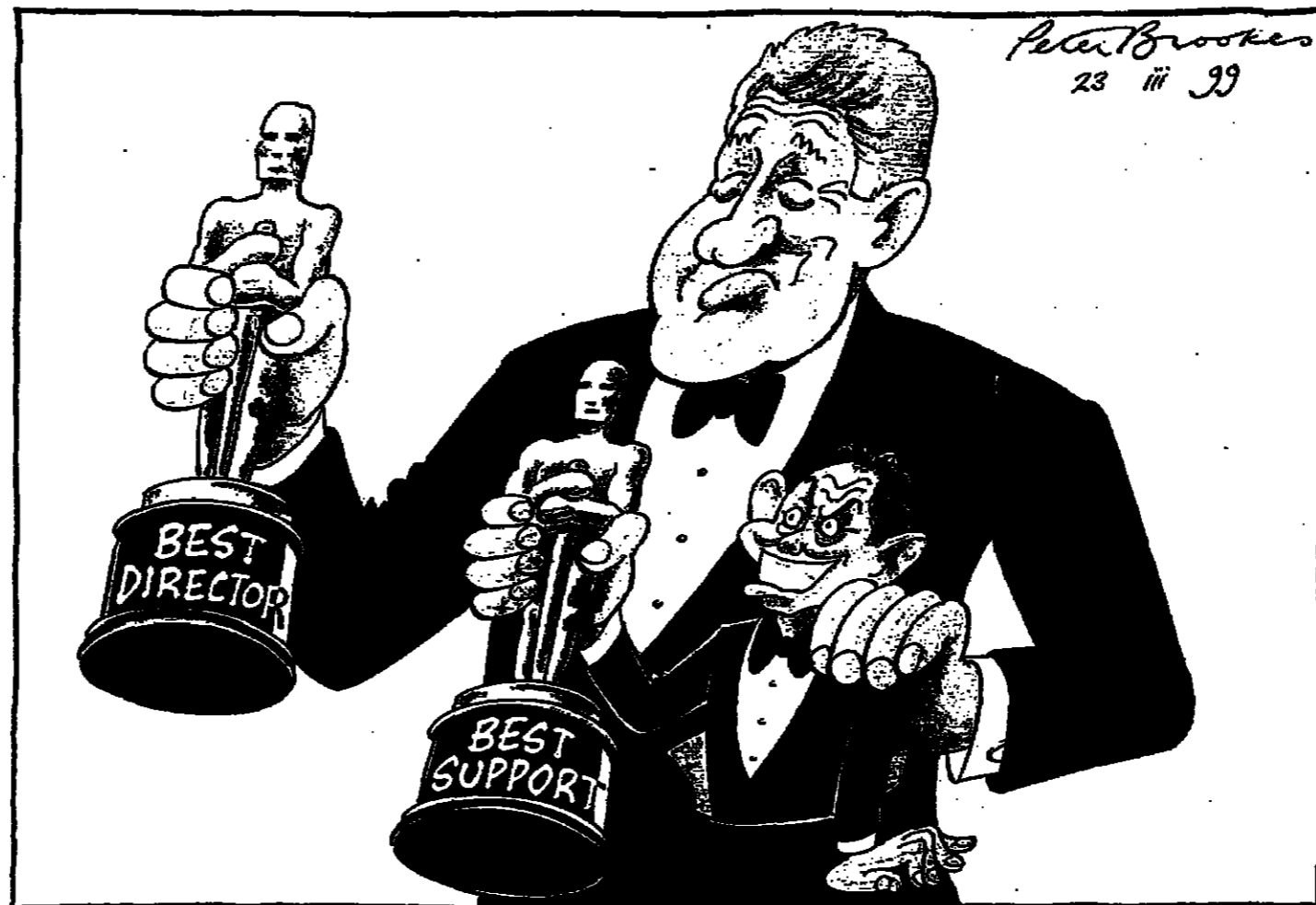
A similar open-door approach must now be employed.

Last, the Social Security Secretary must announce how the Government is going to measure fraud in future. The current variety of measurements must be replaced by a single yardstick, which would reflect the long-established minimum legal test of whether a person has knowingly or recklessly gained funds to which they are not entitled. Future governments would then be able to use this as a basis to report progress on their successes in safeguarding taxpayers' money.

Public confidence would be further boosted if fraud savings were linked to specific welfare reforms. The Chancellor's Welfare to Work initiative shows that a third of all claimants leave the unemployment rolls when they have to take on full-time options in the scheme. The vast majority of this group already have a job while claiming benefit.

While they show many Welfare to Work claimants successfully getting a job, the figures also tell of a sizeable group who do everything in their power to get work, but fail. It would be popular to link some of the huge savings on fraud already being achieved by Welfare to Work to helping the most vulnerable further by developing stage two of the Government's New Deal. It would also, in the longer run, lead to real reductions in the social security bill as more and more of these vulnerable claimants are successfully helped into work.

The author was formerly Minister for Welfare Reform
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THE ANNUAL BALKANS CRISIS AWARDS...

We're still a class act

Schools are our gateway to glory — so why not forget this dismal politicking?

Is there anything more lowering to the spirits than a British education headline? Key words cause the heart to plummet and the hand to jerk back from the newspaper: *School, Selection, Standards, Blunkett, Teachers, Woodwards*. God help us.

You know immediately what will be underneath that baleful black print: either a doom-laden survey or a government initiative (from somewhere on a spectrum ranging from useful to barking mad) being summarily rejected by assorted general secretaries. Beyond the actual headline will be long, slimy trails of dismal class-ridden argument and anecdotes about idle teachers, unpleasant inspectors and the unrecognised brilliance of the writer's own children. Once a week at least in all media we are forced to walk this penitential route, as if "education" were a debilitating plague rather than a gateway to glory.

It horrifies me that I feel this way. I am a parent and an aunt and a groupie who enjoys schools and teachers. What could be more exciting than to show the world to the new generation, and help children towards mastery and exploration? The sense that comes off the best schools — from multi-ported cloister to dilapidated Portakabin and from a noisy Year Ten debate on General Haig — is of grace. Any contact with actual education brings a gale of fresh air, the very antithesis of the dour, sour nipping of education politics.

Obviously the two halves of the process need one another. If the centre is mean with money and misguidedly bossy, the school will suffer however good the staff are.

And many are my current favourite: the northern geography teacher who wrote to me cheekily asking whether, as a yachtie, I happened to know of anyone who might lend him a handheld GPS satellite navigator for a field trip. I was so charmed that I posted him my own, and got it back months later with a sheaf of impressive project-work. Such individual enthusiasm makes a school fly, and Government's role is just to ensure the plane's basic soundness and general route. Prescriptive central control drains the life out of the extremes: note the case of Ruth Miskin, the Head of Kobi Nazari School in London. Her literacy programme is famously successful but (despite being the partner of the Chief Inspector of Schools) she is

regularly outspoken about the fact that she doesn't bother to follow the Government's literacy-hour rules, as contained in the deadweight multi-subcase issued to all primary schools.

So let a thousand flowers bloom, each with its own brave curl of petal. Ministers should weed out the few noxious and half-dead plants and let the rest grow tall.

Asking Government to concentrate on real problems and leave successful schools alone is a not uncommon plea; but I would add a second, less common. It is that we should stop arguing over the remaining grammars, and that, moreover, the ancient, covert civil war between state and independent schools should end. No more class hatred, malicious envy and guilt. Children are children, teaching is teaching: since Britain has accidentally grown a lopsided system of comprehensive, church schools, technology colleges and independents, both day and boarding, we should use that diversity to everyone's advantage. Of course in an ideal world there would be an excellent free school at the bottom of everyone's street; but we do not live in an ideal world. We live in quirky, bloody-minded Britain. So let all schools enthusiastically share both resources and experience.

The Government has made tentative movements to encourage this, but meets resistance. State heads get chippy and say that private schools have nothing to teach them about (I have heard this expression) "real kids". Independent heads roll their eyes up fondly and cite their duty to fee-paying parents and the school's "very special ethos". But children are children, learning is learning. The barriers must come down.

The fulfury of the stand-off was dramatised last week after the

inquest on poor Nicholas Taylor, who died in the course of a "fainting game" which, it transpired, was a regular Etonian way of filling in the time between supper and prayers. Instead of sensible discussion about teenage boys in general, this caused an outbreak of attacks on boarding schools. They ranged in tone from ChikLine's dark hints at "a culture of risky behaviour" caused when children "don't have homes to go to in the evening", to a magnificent, full-blooded rant from A.A. Gill: "A solitary corner of hell... pillow-muffled sob... darker, steamier, underground secret place... lost, dysfunctional, gauche, little homosexual".

Most of the attacks artfully blurred the ages of the children in question, confusing the genuinely controversial issue of prep boarding at teddy-bear age with the majority of teenage boarders. Nearly all of them dwell on the high fees parents pay to these "snobbish, expensive, family-rendering... year places" (Gill again). Yet throughout history teenagers have trained or worked away from home, and today plenty of perfectly normal children do it without demur or "dysfunction". It may be because they live in a remote area, or have Service parents, or an intense musical or sporting interest, or merely hate commuting and prefer the short, busy terms and long idle holidays of the boarding year. They phone home daily, come home frequently, and learn the elements of self-government. Some hate it and should be brought home; but then some day-pupils are miserable and should be moved.

The point is that even boarding schools — a minority within a minority — could actually share valuable experience of how children mature and learn and can govern themselves. A handful, such as

Royal Hospital School where my own children go, even have a startlingly wide social and intellectual mix due to ancient charitable provision (in this case, several centuries' worth of funds eccentrically accruing to Greenwich Hospital, including the wealth of the pirate Captain Kidd and a 1920 shipowner's bequest). So it provides means-tested fees for children of merchant and RN sailors, and brings in hundreds of families who otherwise would not consider a private, let alone boarding, school. This is a rarity; but here is a busy, open-hearted school which has evolved interesting ways of managing a mixed-ability co-ed intake and uniting 660 socially diverse children. Such schools deserve a voice in the national discussion on what education should be.

But, this being Britain, each type of school is expected to remain sealed off and defensive. Any public school housemaster or mistress, after years of 24-hour vigilance, might have a really interesting line on adolescent development — but who would be so politically incorrect as to be caught listening? Every now and then a television producer has a bit of fun by parachuting a dazed Benenden headmistress into a camp, or sending some Merseysiders to Rugby, but their agenda is mischief not kinship. It is time to come out of the trenches, shake hands, swap teachers and materials and methods and generally de-Balkanise.

United, the profession would be better armed against government fads. When state teachers argue over lower class sizes or facilities they are dismissed as inefficient wastrels. Imagine the extra leverage if from time to time the heads of famous public schools sided with these colleagues, just as free Western writers campaign for their peers living under dictatorships.

It might lead to better funding for state schools and lower fees for independents. It is, after all, axiomatic that whenever a private school head does talk to a comprehensive colleague, what the staff head really, really wants to know is how the hell — on the money per-capita and the unselected pupils — the state schools do as well as they do.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Libby Purves

Cranborne's Bill will meet in the Commons not an assembly which holds its leaders to account, but a House in danger of emasculation

Sheila Lawlor

Now that the quest to find the century's defining books, films and paintings has run, we shall soon be searching for its defining statements. These will as often as not be bound up with Parliament: from the announcement that Britain was at war, to Margaret Thatcher's "No, no, no" to the demands of Jacques Delors.

Big Ben is not just for tourists, or for children on half-term treats. Parliamentary government is no abstract matter. It is government by public assembly, which elects its leaders on behalf of the people, hears them out, and if needs be, pulls them down again.

Despite this tradition, parliamentary authority has all but capitulated in face of the tyranny of the executive and its bureaucracies. Legislation is too often rushed through, with Parliament having no say. Furthermore,

local government spending, most of it funded by the taxpayer, is not considered by Parliament. All sorts of secondary measures, attached to the main legislation, are not examined and cannot be amended, and although in theory Parliament can reject them, by convention it does not. In addition, Parliament has been further eroded by the way in which EU directives are used by departments to slip in their own pet schemes, thus avoiding discussion and scrutiny.

How should Parliament regain its authority and deal directly with three central problems: the way in which ministerial measures are turned into law; the way in which other bodies usurp the powers of Parliament; and the way in which government and Parliament work?

First it should see that new Bills are thought through, consulted on, published in draft and

considered under the Audit Act before being proceeded with. At the same time it should ensure that all the secondary measures — the "statutory instruments" so beloved of the great bureaucracies which at present are dodged through — should be subject to proper scrutiny and amendment. Secondly, every Bill should have its health warning on whether it erodes parliamentary responsibility. Not only would Bills have to be certified so that Parliament would know whether they changed the constitutional balance, Parliament would also be told which of them undermined or took away some of its responsibilities.

Ministers would have to come to Parliament with the EU directives, consult representative bodies, and publish a report on which there would be a vote in both Houses. This would help to end the culture of ministers doing deals with their EU cronies. Parliament would also need to demand that it be shown clearly what aspects of any new EU measure are required under existing legislation, and what is the icing on the cake — extra regulations added at the whim of British officialdom. Local government would have to submit its expenditure to Parliament.

Finally, Parliament would end the promiscuity of government in awarding its favours to its own, or turning public appointments would be submitted to proper scrutiny. The great and the good would find that they had another

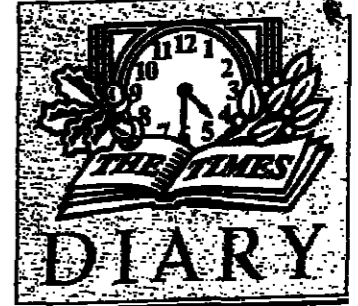
master to answer to, Parliament and its electorate. Administrative effectiveness and efficiency of government would be subject to review. Most important, the number of MPs and the number of ministers would be reduced. The power and freedom of individual MPs would be increased by their belonging to a smaller group. The power of government would be reduced by making it smaller.

Wonderful, many people might think. But are not these proposals fantasy? Not quite. They are all part of a Private Member's Bill introduced by Viscount Cranborne in the House of Lords. Although its welcome in the Lords will be warm, the chances of its becoming law will depend on the Government. For though the Bill's journey to the Commons may be swift, it will meet there not an assembly which holds its

leaders to account, but a House in danger of emasculation by government — and, as the Victorians knew well, the most potentially dangerous of all sinister interests is that of the executive because it is the most powerful.

Might the Government, nonetheless, let Parliament stand up for itself? There is nothing in the main lines of Viscount Cranborne's Bill which any committed parliamentarian should hesitate to welcome. And, given the posturing over the failures in Europe in the absence of a British model, which minister, even in the present administration, would claim to be anything other than a committed parliamentarian?

comment@the-times.co.uk



Shock tactic

IF YOU find the shocking new NSPCC adverts effective, here's why: Peter Mandelson has been heavily involved. The rehabilitation of the former Trade and Industry Secretary continues, after his recent work for the VSO. The master messenger has attended numerous meetings and helped to persuade Tony Blair to launch the campaign with the Duke of York yesterday.

The ads, to be promoted by Baby Spice, below left, contain harrowing cries of children. Peter, who, I hear, has turned down several lucrative business offers, has spent much (unpaid) time on this. As well as doing some good, it might even help his campaign to get back into the Cabinet one day.

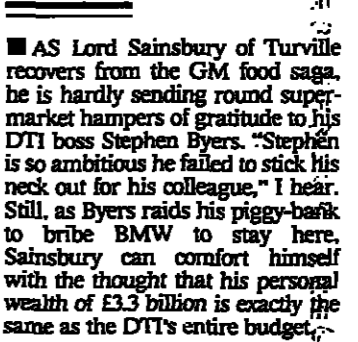


A PUNGENT smell of curry has prompted Tiggy Legge-Bourke to move house. The "royal assistant", willing after waits from The Indian Diner, an exotic food emporium in Battersea, is moving a few streets away where she is having a new pad knocked up.

PLATOONS of Filipinos are compiling a history of the Scottish language. The *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*, a 6,800-page affair, is being bashed out by toilers in Manila. The multi-volume history has gestated for 60 years (Robert Maxwell took it on, but his dip thwarted plans). Editors hope the Filipinos — sent handwritten scribbles by post — will avoid mistakes with older words, as "it is all foreign to them" (handily, their wages are half those of local typists). "I could give you 50 to 100 Scottish companies who would have loved to bid for this work," means a business type.

LORD HURD of WESTWELL has finally discovered what his aides were up to when they blew round the globe. In a foreword to *Time* to Kill Sparrows, an anthology of poems by diplomats, the former Foreign Secretary admits: "As they gazed out of the aircraft, scribbled at meetings where there was no need, or walked in solitude up the Ambassador's lawn, they were writing poetry."

AS Lord Sainsbury of Turville recovers from the GM food saga, he is hardly sending round supermarket hampers of gratitude to his DTI boss Stephen Byers. "Stephen is so ambitious he failed to stick his neck out for his colleague," I hear. Still, as Byers raids his piggy-bank to bribe BMW to stay here, Sainsbury can comfort himself with the thought that his personal wealth of £3.3 billion is exactly the same as the DTI's entire budget.



DAN FRANKLIN, editorial director at Cape, has a tough trip ahead. He is to mind Howard Marks and Irvine Welsh during a publishing bash in Amsterdam.

THE Serjeant at Arms was mistaken when he persuaded the new Speaker's Chaplain to give his address. Canon Peter Jennings persuaded Robert Wright to dispense with one of the perks of the job after suggesting it was "a peculiarity of his predecessor."

But the Speaker's Chaplain has had a dresser since time immemorial. Importantly, the funny helps the cleric with his black cassock, cape and pouty but before swishing towards the chamber with our dear Speaker.

The Serjeant has retained his own dresser. Orders about how his sword should be laid out are pinned up at Westminster.

SUREING the Tory Euro website, Denis MacShane, europhile Labour MP, was pleasantly surprised: "I was expecting barbed wire and Union Jacks but it was more europhile than Labour's."

JASPER GERARD



CLASS POLITICS

An imaginative initiative for inner-city education

Two months ago Tony Blair spoke of a Britain with an ever more middle-class electorate. Those responsible for public relations within Downing Street have clearly taken that message to heart. Great efforts have been made to portray the series of initiatives launched by Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett yesterday as a carefully crafted strategy designed to lure the middle classes back to inner-city comprehensives. In truth, the six areas at the heart of this £350 million programme contain relatively few such affluent parents. For all the considerable publicity offered to those measures that are deliberately aimed at stretching the top 10 per cent of pupils, rather more of the money will be spent on new and intensive efforts to help the least able.

With the exception of a few enclaves, such as Islington, where many middle-class parents are faced with a choice between uninspiring local state schools, it will be the poor but able who benefit the most from the Government's efforts. They will receive additional teaching within their own schools and the opportunity to use facilities at specialist and beacon schools in their area. Mr Blunkett intends to redeploy old and new resources in a manner that offers the most to those whose raw talent should be enough to steer them towards university but who, at the moment, all too often do not have the chance to develop their potential.

This is an admirable objective even if the political salesmanship that has accompanied it has been somewhat misleading. The sum of money involved is substantial. The accompanying shift in philosophy will be at least as important. Mr Blair has not banished mixed ability teaching but he is marginalising it. This package represents a political victory for the meritocrats within the Downing Street policy unit over their more egalitarian colleagues at the Department for Education and Employment.

It also crystallises the emerging "Blair doctrine" on education policy. This might be described as the three S's — setting, specialisation and standards. The single most significant aspect of this tripod may prove to be the Prime Minister's determination that more schools should develop distinctive academic interests, be it languages, science or technology, and attract parents and students on this basis. That drive is to be supported by an extension of beacon schools which serve as broader centres of excellence. The development or not of these institutions will be the single most important factor in determining whether theory translates into practice.

The Prime Minister predicted yesterday that he would be attacked from one side by those for whom grammar schools remain sacrosanct and by another for whom the slightest hint of selection within comprehensives is akin to ideological treason. He thus implied that in this, as so many other respects, he represents a reasonable "Third Way" between the hothouses. The analogy is not completely accurate. The remaining 160 grammar schools represent no threat to Mr Blair's ambitions. Their abolition would do nothing to help, and may eventually harm, the very children on whom the Prime Minister would rightly wish to focus his considerable energies.

Mr Blair's real challenge lies with those who will now charge that his blueprint is "divisive" and that it undermines the core principles upon which comprehensive education should be structured. This claim is of very limited credibility but enormous emotional power within his own party and the teaching profession. The Prime Minister has put forward a bold and coherent plan and made available a more than adequate amount of money. It remains to be seen whether schools, and especially the local education authorities concerned, will make the most of this opportunity.

PRIMAKOV RULES

Still a chance to lever Russia back on to the reform road

When Yevgeni Primakov arrives in Washington to meet Vice-President Al Gore and the IMF, one immediate subject of conversation is likely to be Kosovo. But the real issue will be the very future of Russia's reform programme and what sort of country it will be in the post-Yeltsin age.

To many international bankers, Mr Primakov is a Lubyanka-trained Oliver who ought surely not to be asked for more after last August's default. The Prime Minister badly needs to convince his hosts that new aid will not follow past loans into overseas personal bank accounts.

Whether or not he intends to succeed President Yeltsin in elections next year, Mr Primakov rules in Russia today. In a murky Kremlin this much stands clear: nothing else does, save the problems of communism's crisis-ridden afterlife.

Russia remains too vital to pretend that its agony does not matter. The spectacle of its staggering Government, irresolute but wilful on the precipice, makes people long for a more stable alternative. It is becoming tempting to specify that alternative in the name of an authoritarian Mr Primakov.

The Primakov label remains a tag on a mystery package. Some Russians hail Mr Primakov as a Soviet Cincinnatus, summoned to save the nation from chaos. Others ask: is former spy-master Primakov a walking ghost whom eight years of reform have not laid? His shadowy KGB background, his placing of senior ex-colleagues to oversee supposedly private media companies, his putting to rout of his rival Boris Berezovsky might be visible signs of an ominous political rot.

Mr Yeltsin's decay has allowed Mr Primakov to put in his bid at the Kremlin's auction of power. It was Mr Primakov who

benefited when the Moscow prosecutor Yuri Skarlatov revealed the disappearance of some \$50 billion in reserves from Russia's central bank. Although the prosecutor was rewarded with embarrassing exposure of his sex life on television, Mr Primakov's prize was the sole capacity to manipulate charges of corruption for political ends. To attract Communist support it is whispered that a Primakov presidential campaign will be stoked by high-profile trials of vulnerable Yeltsin era ministers and millionaires.

Mr Primakov has contrived over seven months as Prime Minister to give little indication about how he intends to confront Russia's crisis. So far he has been lucky: the abyss was skirted this winter. Russia needs to escape immobility not to make immobility its national doctrine again. If new money is to be given, Mr Primakov must commit himself to carrying out, within 90 days, conditions agreed in previous IMF deals. As a reformer Mr Primakov would be more convincing if he sacked Viktor Geraschenko, arguably the worst central bank governor ever to preside in a major modern country.

If a deal is struck, there may be some benefit to the West in the powers that Mr Primakov has amassed: if Russia's Prime Minister gives his word, he may at least have the power to keep it. In Mr Primakov's Kremlin, too, perhaps three schools of doctors (and undertakers carrying stethoscopes) contend over Russia's sickbed. Some would embalm; some would pursue restoration to health; some want only a partial recovery to preserve their privileges. The IMF loan may be one of the West's last levers to boost Mr Primakov into the recovery camp.

BEYOND PATAGONIA

A chance to glimpse the life of a man of myth

In 1977, when *In Patagonia* appeared under the little known name of Bruce Chatwin, travel writing was already an art at which the British seemed to excel: from Smollett's *Travels in France and Italy* to Lawrence's *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* and Apsley Cherry-Garrard's *The Worst Journey in the World* it was the literary obverse of the soldier's tale. Yet Chatwin's book became one of the most admired, imitated and collected volumes of our age. The author's sharp, particular eye changed the genre's shape, made the journey itself a prism through which the light of the writer's language could be seen.

The book's 97 sections contained his own recollections, tales from other travellers and history, blended in a way that still stands as unique. Does it matter if the famous telegram — "Gone to Patagonia" — never actually existed? Does it matter if Bruce Chatwin, who died ten years ago and wrote, in his short life, just five books, lost his life not to a rare oriental disease, as he claimed, but to Aids instead? It was Chatwin's strength, not his weakness, that he was a fabulist, unable to untangle the strands of his glittering life, whose story we begin in *The Times* today, from the threads of his equally brilliant tales.

He had been a director of Sotheby's but craved a more adventurous life. Setting off for the southern tip of Argentina — ostensibly to track down the origins of a

family heirloom, the pelt of a giant sloth — he returned not with skin but with the seeds of his first book. His rise at the auction house had been swift while still only a porter, he had spotted a "Picasso" watercolour for a fake. He brought this eye, this gift of observation, to his travels.

In Patagonia and the four books that followed it are filled with images that hang in the memory, luminous as sunlit stained glass. His highly impressionist tale-telling spawned many less skilful imitators. But Chatwin cannot be blamed for that.

The story of his life is not easy to tell. A self-made man in every way, from his earliest days he spun tales that cast a spell. He was of no noble birth: yet many thought that he was. He was a married man, whose American wife, Elizabeth Chanler, was given a wedding ring 24 centuries old; but he continued to have many affairs with men. His blond, pale-eyed beauty was striking, his charm could be overpowering; and yet both kept him at distance from others. He was photographed by Robert Mapplethorpe; but, like very few of that artist's subjects, he kept his clothes on.

Nicholas Shakespeare's biography of Chatwin gives a revealing portrait of a writer who set a special mark on the literature of our time. Through the voices of those who recall him it brings his mystery alive: it ought also to bring back readers to the prose that made Chatwin's name.

Aims and effects of Nato airstrikes

From the Reverend Professor Emeritus Adrian Hastings

Sir, The mass destruction and murder under way in Kosovo are proof positive that Milosevic knows he is about to lose it and hopes to placate Serb nationalism with the scale of punishment inflicted on Kosovans while it is still possible to do so. Neither he nor anyone in Serbia wants a war with Nato or serious damage to Serbia itself but, in my view, they will continue to devastate Kosovo until five minutes before, or ten minutes after, Nato actually attacks.

This vast escalation in terrorism would not have happened without the recent Paris peace talks. It seems, in consequence, the direct responsibility of Nato and of Robin Cook, who largely controlled the course of negotiations.

The situation can only get worse until intervention actually begins to halt a crime greater even than that which Milosevic inflicted upon Bosnia.

Yours,
ADRIAN HASTINGS,
3 Holm Hill House,
219 Oakwood Lane, Leeds LS8 2PE.
March 22.

From Mr S. J. Tennent

Sir, A specious wisdom seems to be becoming established over Kosovo. This is that airstrikes would achieve nothing and only play into the hands of Mr Milosevic.

I suggest this has to do with our civilised distaste for the gun-bo methods of our American leaders. It does not mean that airstrikes would not be just as rapidly effective as they were in Bosnia in September 1995.

Our humanity recoils from the reality that there are some rulers so powerful, dangerous and ruthless that we have to employ ruthless methods to protect the world from them.

The bleak truth, in my view, is that deadly force is needed, justified and likely to be effective if the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia persists in genocide or ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. Nato is probably adequately equipped to "write down" Mr Milosevic's arsenal of howitzers, tanks, armoured cars and planes and to discourage deeply the men manning them.

Yours sincerely,
S. J. TENNENT,
St Helens, High Street,
Gifford, Haddington EH41 4QU.
March 22.

From Dr Robert McGeehan

Sir, Your leading article on Kosovo (March 22) urges a massive rather than a token military operation if airstrikes on Yugoslavia are undertaken. Yet, however repulsive the regime in Belgrade, it cannot be wise for Nato to launch an armed attack on a sovereign state without clear UN Security Council authorisation.

The credibility of the Atlantic alliance is on the line in Kosovo not because any vital Western interest is at stake, but because it has been put there by American and Nato officials seemingly more anxious to strike a moral pose than admit that a highly complex situation cannot be reduced to good guys v bad guys.

The likely effects of devastating bombing will not be peace but an extended conflict, a divided alliance, Russian hostility, Serbian defiance and profound regret in the future that the rules of international law have been so lightly dismissed.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MCGEEHAN,
Cooks Corner Farm,
Freeland, Oxfordshire OX8 8HW.
March 22.

European elections

From Mr Jonathan Sayeed, MP for Mid Bedfordshire (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Brian Shaw (letter, March 16) states that he will be spoiling his ballot paper for the European elections as he considers the closed-list system to be an affront to democracy.

Mr Shaw is right to feel affronted by a Labour Party decision that makes a Labour candidate's electoral future dependent on keeping the party bosses sweet, rather than the support of the electorate.

Instead of wasting his vote Mr Shaw should use it to support the Conservatives. They are the only major party that has consistently opposed Labour's undemocratic closed-list system.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN SAYEED,
House of Commons.
March 16.

From Mrs Margaret L. Willmer

Sir, I agree with Mr Brian Shaw. Opportunity must be given for us to register our protest by spoiling the voting paper.

I certainly do not intend to vote for a nameless politician — I shall mark my paper with a simple "who?" Perhaps we could start a "who?" campaign?

Yours faithfully,
M. L. WILLMER,
23 Lynton Road, NW6 1HZ.
margaretwillmer.demon.co.uk
March 16.

Loss of legal aid for bankrupts

From Professor Muir Hunter, QC

Sir, The serious effects of the Lord Chancellor's intention to substantially reduce civil legal aid, criticised by Mr Ashley Holmes and others (letter, March 15; see also letter, March 22) are bound to apply particularly in bankruptcy and insolvency cases.

Ever since legal aid began, it has been regularly granted, in meritorious cases, to debtors and bankrupts, and their partners; without it, an insolvent person may have little chance of defending his civic status and civil rights, and of avoiding the hazards and miseries of bankruptcy.

I have asked the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Legal Aid Board how they envisage that an insolvent litigant will henceforth be represented. Their view seems to be that he/she must enter into a conditional fee agreement with lawyers; for an insolvent litigant, that suggestion is surely unrealistic.

The refusal of legal aid must increasingly lead to litigants appearing in person. Mr Richard Southwell, QC, in his recent judgment in *Mekia v Royal Bank of Scotland* (Law Report, January 25) deplored the waste of court time and costs which had resulted from refusing legal aid to the successful plaintiff.

The denial of legal aid in such cases must also hamper the Government's

policy, in its recent Competitiveness White Paper (leading article, December 17, 1998) of developing the "rescue culture": how can the deserving insolvent be rescued, with no funding for lawyers?

Does not the Human Rights Act oblige our society to provide the citizen with lawyers to defend his status and rights?

Yours faithfully,
MUIR HUNTER
(Visiting Professor of Insolvency Law, Bournemouth University),
3/4 South Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1R 5HP.
March 22.

From Mr Christopher Frazer

Sir, Clause 1 of the new Civil Procedure Rules states that their "overriding objective" is "dealing with a case justly", which includes "ensuring that the parties are on an equal footing" — precisely what the Lord Chancellor's Department sees as a "gimmick" in the Access to Justice Bill.

Are we now to expect that "overriding objective" to be deleted in the first revision of the rules?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER FRAZER,
2 Harcourt Buildings,
Temple, EC4Y 9DB.
March 22.

Change in hallmarks

From the Deputy Chairman of the British Jewellers Association

Sir, My sympathy lies with Professor Deean Anderson (letter, March 20) who comments that the UK seems to be ahead of its partners in applying European law.

There has been no European legislation on hallmarking, but the European Court of Justice has ruled that EU states with independent testing bodies like our Assay Offices should recognise each others' marks. Our amended law has been introduced but there is no definitive list of which countries' systems provide a guarantee equivalent to ours: there is no complete set of illustrations of their marks: it is not certain which finenesses may be put on the market.

Ridiculously, a British maker may not have certain finenesses hallmark-ed here for sale in his own domestic market which an overseas supplier can sell here, and the DTI has not

established if other European countries have similarly amended their law to recognise British hallmarks.

The alternative, the draft European Precious Metals Directive, offers a simple and uniform marking system with the voluntary retention of traditional marks like the lion passant. Importantly, it can also give the consumer a choice of independent testing or the maker's own fineness guarantee (a guarantee which applies to virtually all other consumer durables and which works just as well for the major jewellery manufacturing nations of Italy and Germany).

Yet the British Government is choosing instead an unworkable and unenforceable compromise which denigrates the traditional system and frustrates those who seek progress.

Yours faithfully,
LAWRENCE BREWER,
Deputy Chairman,
British Jewellers Association,
10 Vyse Street, Birmingham B18 6LT.
March 21.

Extra tuition

From Mr Ken Gilbert

Sir, The news that the Government is to provide extra tuition for the 5 to 10 per cent of high-flyers in inner-city schools (report, March 22) suggests to me that this tuition could best be supplied in separate institutions which could be called, I suppose, grammar schools.

I await with interest what the Government proposes for the 10 per cent of children at the bottom end of the attainment scale. Work at 14 perhaps?

Yours faithfully,
KEN GILBERT,
26 Gallows Hill, Kings Langley,
Hertfordshire WD4 8LU.
March 22.

US and Ireland

From Mr Alan Turner

Sir, At the St Patrick's Day parade here in San Francisco on March 14, Bertie Aherne, the Irish Prime Minister, headed a parade which included two large groups, one calling for the disbandment of the RUC, and the other for the withdrawal of the Army ("The British Army — the true terrorists in Ireland") and remembering the hunger strikers.

Am I out of touch with what is going on over there?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN TURNER,
Apt 1005 Geary Courtyard,
Geary Street,
San Francisco, CA 94102.
March 16.

Worth a drink?

From Mr Simon Perrin

Sir, Many public houses in England were granted a licence extension until midnight last night in order to celebrate St Patrick's Day.

However, my local hostelry has been refused an extension on April 23, apparently on the grounds that the event is not of sufficient national importance. What have our magistrates got against St George?

Yours, very confused,
SIMON PERRIN,
5 Rachel's Court,
Cemetery Road, Ipswich IP4 2JB.
simon.perrin@talk21.com
March 18.

From Mr Steve Wedd
Sir, Given the apparent success of the Guinness marketing effort for St Patrick's Day, will the English Tourist Board be pushing St George's Day this year; and, if so, with which liquid product?

Yours faithfully,
STEVE WEDD,
25 Old Siede, Brighton BN1 1EL.
steve@wedd-daniel.uk.com
March 18.

Hollywood films rewrite the past

From Mr Ian Curteis, President of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain

Sir, What a relief that Hollywood has again corrected history, this time marked by the Oscars awarded to *Saving Private Ryan*, a splendid film demonstrating unequivocally that the crucial British contribution to the tragic invasion of Omaha Beach on D-Day was a complete myth. Thank goodness for intellectual rigour.

This is shortly to be followed by another great cinema epic, showing that the Enigma code machine — one of the two main factors that enabled us to survive Hitler's war — was not in fact captured from a U-boat in a remarkable incident led by Captain Baker-Cresswell and his Royal Navy team, as we have mistakenly believed all these years, but by an all-American crew. No matter that the capture took place in May 1941, months before America entered the war; the film triumphantly overcomes all such small-minded pedantry.

Not too far off, I feel sure, is the remake of *The Battle of Britain*, which will show the extraordinary bravery of the Americans in sweeping the Luftwaffe from our skies. It will no doubt rightly give prominence to Winston Churchill's great speech in praise of America, delivered to the Little-Mowbray-under-the-Hill Home Guard, a body of men in their nineties and clearly in the last stages of decrepitude, a speech curiously little reported at the time.

We should dismiss as hopelessly fuddy-duddy the superstition that most young people nowadays learn their history from film and television, not from books, and it is upon their understanding of what has gone before that their own decisions, both personal and public, will be based.

Not to be outdone, the Writers' Guild of Great Britain is shortly to commence production of a multi-million-pound epic retelling the story of just how ingeniously the British got the first man on the Moon. We shall naturally invite Neil Armstrong to the premiere. He will surely understand that, just because we will state clearly, "This is a True Life Story", we don't of course mean it actually happened.

Yours truly,
IAN CURTEIS,
President,
The Writers' Guild of Great Britain,
430 Edware Road, W2 1EH.
March 22.

Lost causes

From Mr Robert Elphick

Sir, In supporting Elia Kazan's actions before the US Un-American Activities Committee in the early Fifties, William Rees-Mogg (article, March 22) makes a pertinent point about the continuing refusal of other fellow-travellers to acknowledge, as he did, the truth about Soviet communism. There is indeed a direct similarity between red and black fascism.

As for the leftist mantra about having to "break eggs to make omelettes", I have known a number of defectors in my time, all of whom were deeply disillusioned about their choice of systems. One of the more amusing, John Peel, the former Reuters correspondent who defected to the East Germans in 1950, quoted the phrase despairingly in the conclusion to his memoirs and asked: "But where is the omelette?"

He was still looking when he died in 1988 just before the Berlin Wall came down and provided the answer.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ELPHICK,
90 Lupus Street, SW1V 3HH.
March 22.

Tango revival

From Mr Barney Miller

Sir, Professor Eric Moonman mentions (letter, March 19) "a shortage of tango teachers here".

He will be pleased to learn that the Academia Nacional del Tango in Argentina has encouraged the formation of the United Kingdom Academy of Tango (UKAT) in Britain; it was launched by President Menem during his visit in October.

There are about 20 tango schools in London.

Yours faithfully,
BARNEY MILLER
(Honorary Treasurer,
United Kingdom Academy of Tango),
19 Oxford Road, SW15 2JG.
March 19.

Sign of spring

From Mr Alan Sloan

Sir, Mr H. Sutherland Pilch reports an early sighting of a bare navel in the City on March 17 (letter, March 18). Such sights are commonplace in Sheffield city centre on Friday nights throughout November to March.

Are the citizens of that place proudly claiming their home a land of perpetual summer? Or is there a hardy, non-migratory northern sub-species of navel?

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SLOAN,
Wallpits,
Harrington, Buxton,
Derbyshire SK17 0AE.
alan@wallpits.freemove.co.uk
March 19.

Letters to the Editor for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number 0171-782 5046 — or by e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning departed Gambia Airport, Gambia for London.

His Royal Highness this evening arrived RAF Northolt, London.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 22: The Prince of Wales, Chairman of the Trustees of the Royal Collection, this afternoon chaired a Trustees' meeting at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Patron of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Ethiopian Challenge 1990 Expedition, later attended a reception at St James's Palace State Apartments.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Duke of York

attended the Public Launch of the NSPCC Appeal at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 22: The Princess Royal, Patron, The Butler Trust, this morning gave an address and presented the certificates at the Annual Awards Ceremony at Buckingham Palace.

Her Royal Highness, this afternoon, officially opened Hill Homes' new nursing home, Bridge-side Lodge, in Wharf Road, Islington, London N1.

The Princess Royal, Patron, Jersey Wildlife Preservation Trust, this evening attended the launch of the Gerald Durrell Biography at HarperCollins, 77-85 Fulham Palace Road, Hammersmith, London W6.

Birthdays today

Princess Eugenie of York is nine today.

Mr Michael Ashworth, cricketer, 31; Mr Norman Bailey, baritone, 66; Sir Roger Bannister, former Master, Pembroke College, Oxford, and first man to run sub-four-minute mile, 70; Mr Bryan Bass, former Headmaster, City of London School, 65; Professor R. Bennett, FBA, geographer, 51; Professor Francis Berry, poet and Shakespearean scholar, 84; Mr Barry Cryer, comedian and writer, 64; Professor Michael Gleson, ophthalmologist, 51; Mr Peter Godfrey, former senior partner, Ernst & Whinney, 75; the Rev Dr Peter Graves, superintendent minister, Westminster Central Hall, 56; Professor Kenneth J. Gregory, former Warden, Goldsmiths College, 61; Mr L. Howell, former director of programmes, GNTV, 48; Sir Geoffrey Leigh, company chairman, 66; Sir David McNeel, former Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, 74; Mr Michael Manser, architect, 70; Lord Morris of Manchester, 71; Mr Allan Mottram, Headmaster, Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford, 50; Mr Michael Nymman, composer, 55; Professor T.J. Pedley, FRS, G.I. Taylor Professor of Fluid Mechanics, Cambridge University, 57; Sir Desmond Piche, former chairman, United Utilities, 64; Sir Ian Todd, former President, Royal College of Surgeons, 78; Sir Edward Warner, former diplomat, 88; Sir Denis Wright, former diplomat, 88.

Service dinner

RAF Club Dining Society
Mrs Polly Vacher was the guest of honour at a dinner of the RAF Club Dining Society held last night at the club. Air Commodore G.J.B. Claridge presided and Captain T.R. Fulton also spoke.

Royal engagements

The Prince of Wales, as patron, British Wheelchair Sports Foundation, will attend the launch of the Sporting Chance Appeal at Lancaster House, at 12.30; and will open the Art of the Silk Kingdoms exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum at 6.30.

Prince Edward will attend a performance of *Dracula* by the Northern Ballet Theatre at Sadler's Wells Theatre, at 7.25.

The Princess Royal will open the British Association of Clothing Industry Manufacturers' 99th exhibition at the NEC Birmingham at 11.00; will open the Cranfield Innovation Centre, Moulton Road, Cranfield, Bedfordshire, at 2.00; and, as patron, International Health Exchange, will attend the annual meeting at the Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, London University, at 5.15.

The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, will visit the 1st Battalion Devon and Dorset Regiment on exercise on Salisbury Plain at 11.00.

Dinners

Defence and Security Forum
The Ambassador of Israel was the guest speaker at a dinner of the Defence and Security Forum held last night at the Carlton Club, Lady Olga Maitland, president, was in the chair.

Inter-Parliamentary Union
Mr Alan Rogers, vice-chairman of the British group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was the host at a dinner held last night on board *RS Hispaniola* in honour of a parliamentary delegation from Macedonia.

Society of Chemical Industry
Mr R.A. Holland, Chairman of Council of the Society of Chemical Industry, presented the 1989 SCI Lampitt medal to Professor Norman Blakeborough at a dinner held last night at Belgrave Square.



Judges selecting the finalists yesterday from more than 600 entries for this year's NatWest Art Prize. Work by the 11 shortlisted artists will go on show at the Louthbury Gallery in London on May 17. The competition, which has a £26,000 top prize and ten prizes of £1,000, is open to artists under 35 living, working or studying in Britain.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: William Smith, geologist, Churchill, Oxfordshire, 1769; Alfred Milner, Viscount Milner, imperialist, Glessen, Germany, 1854; Michael Savage, Prime Minister of New Zealand 1935-40; Rothery, Victoria, 1872; Sir Muirhead Bone, watercolourist and etcher, Glasgow, 1876; Joan Gris, painter and pioneer of Cubism, Madrid, 1887; Cedric Gibbons, film designer, Dublin, 1893; Erich Fromm, physiologist, Frankfurt am Main, 1900; Joan Crawford, actress, San Antonio, Texas, 1908; Werner von Braun, pioneer of rocketry, Wirsitz, Germany, 1912; Jimmy Edwards, comedy actor, Birmingham, 1920; Donald Campbell, holder of land and water speed records, Horley, Surrey, 1921.

DEATHS: Thomas Holcroft, dramatist and novelist, London, 1809; August von Kotzebue, dramatist, murdered, Mannheim, Germany, 1819; Stendhal (Marie-Henri Beyle), novelist, Paris, 1842; Raoul Dufy, painter, Forcalquier, France, 1953.

London's first tramcar, designed by a Mr Train of New York, began operating from Bayswater, 1861.

Benito Mussolini, an Italian socialist journalist, formed the Fascists to fight liberalism and communism, 1919.

Austin Pay, Governor of Tennessee, signed a statute forbidding the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution in state schools, 1925.

The first official meeting for 400 years between the heads of the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches took place in Rome, 1966.

Assistant Recorders

The following have been appointed to sit as Assistant Recorders on the South Eastern Circuit:

Mr Graham Linley Aldous; Miss Grace Tina Anakye; Miss Shani Estelle Barnes; Miss Sallie Ann Bennett; Mr Nicholas John Gorrod Blake; Mr Andrew John Bright; Mr John Brooke-Smith; Mr Frank Burton; Mr John Arthur Caudle; Mr Roger Graham Chapple; Mr Edward Mervyn Cohen; Mr Bruce Robert Coleman; Miss Kharin Pauline Cox; Mr John Stanislaus Dodd; Mr Mark Christopher Ellison; Mr Simon Dennis Marsden Frelaud; Mr Neil Stephen Gurnham; Mrs Diana Frances Good; Mr Allan Peter Gore; Mr Courtney Delsbue McVay Griffiths; Mr Peter Lian; Mr Nicholas Archibald Hamilton; Mr Michael Heathcote Williams; Miss

Reception

CHIC
Dr L.M. Singhvi, honorary president of the Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHIC), and General Dr Y. Gowon, chairman of the Human Ecology Foundation, were the hosts at a reception held last night in New Zealand House to mark the 40th anniversary of the council and the honour conferred on Mrs Zena Day. The High Commissioner for New Zealand was present.

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OBITUARIES

SIR MICHAEL CAINE

Sir Michael Caine, Chairman of Booker, 1979-93, died on March 20 aged 71. He was born on June 17, 1927.

In a career of more than forty years with the international food and agribusiness company Booker, Michael Caine was successively chief executive and chairman. But his interests ranged over a much wider field than the immediate concerns of the business. Caine was until 1995 the guiding spirit of the Booker Prize for fiction, serving as chairman of its management committee for nearly 25 years.

For all the razzamatazz that accompanies the prize today, with the accent on big names, big controversies and big sales, Caine's original modest aim was simply to recognise and promote new English-language novels of distinction. He had an arm's-length attitude to the judges and their choices, and although he was

a voracious reader, he kept his shrewd criticisms of the shortlists almost to himself.

In his quarter-century as host of the award ceremony, Caine had many alarming moments. In 1972 the winner, John Berger, accused the sponsors of more than a century of Third World exploitation and said he would be giving half his prize money to the Black Panthers. The following year, J. G. Farrell lambasted the Royal Family, while R. A. Butler inexplicably cracked anti-Semitic jokes as he handed over the winner's cheque. Other dramas included Beryl Bainbridge lying down on the floor for the entire ceremony, claiming that she felt more comfortable there, while the television coverage itself often made the news through its tendency to trivialise the event. But the prize itself came in for some of the fiercest attacks, with yearly claims that Booker had "dumbed it down" to the extent that it had more to do

with showbusiness than with literature.

Caine bore this cannonade of insults with equanimity. When, in 1991, he was asked to widen Booker's literary sponsorship to post-perestroika Russia, he jumped at the chance. He enlisted the help of the British Council, but happily tramped the streets of Moscow, himself, searching out Russian literary figures in Stalinist apartment blocks — despite not having a word of Russian. With Booker sponsorship coming to an end, he worked hard to ensure continued support from a new sponsor, Diageo.

Michael Harris Caine was born in Hong Kong, the son of Sir Sydney Caine, a colonial civil servant and Director of the London School of Economics, and Muriel Harris. He was educated at Bedales, Lincoln College, Oxford, and in America at George Washington University. After serving in the British Embassy in Washington, he joined Booker



Caine combined formidable intellect with a sense of fun

as a protégé of Lord Campbell of Eskan in 1952. He began his business career in Guyana, to which he later returned to lead the team

that negotiated Booker's ultimate disinvestment in 1976. It was due in no small measure to his patient diplomacy that the departure in the end was

amicable, and a later Guyanese Government turned back to Booker to manage its nationalised sugar factories and estates.

Caine will be remembered for his untiring work in the Commonwealth, especially in Africa. From his first visits to Zambia and Malawi in the 1950s he became a doughty champion of that troubled continent. He took up the daunting challenge of organising and fundraising for Africa 95, a celebration of African arts. It took two years to prepare, with nationwide exhibitions and concerts, bringing previously unknown music, art, dance and poetry to millions.

At the time of his death, he was president of the Royal African Society, having served as its chairman for the previous 12 years. He was also chairman of the African Emerging Markets Fund, of the Africa Centre in London and of the Arisan Trust. Earlier he had been a director

and deputy chairman of the Commonwealth Development Corporation and served on various other bodies promoting private investment, including the business advisory group of the International Finance Corporation in Washington.

Caine combined a formidable intellect with a sense of fun. He overcame a distinct stammer by ignoring it. He had a phenomenal memory for people and places. He was generous in praise, skilled at cajoling and gentle in admonition. He was as relaxed with presidents and company chairmen as with friends over lunch at the Reform Club or pottering in his garden. Once, when in Barbados watching cricket, he was summoned to tea by the former Commonwealth Secretary-General, his old friend Sir "Sonny" Ramphal, and during an interval in play he simply took a short cut across the pitch.

As well as his Commonwealth interests, Caine was at

various times a council member of the Institute of Race Relations; Queen Elizabeth House, Oxford; the Institute of Development Studies; and the IBA. He was chairman of the UK Council for Overseas Student Affairs, the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, the One World Broadcasting Trust and Five TV. He was knighted in 1988.

Michael Caine was a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and in recent years his family was augmented by Amar, a badly injured Iraqi orphan of whom Caine and his second wife, Emma Nicholson, became the guardians.

He married, first, Janice Mercer (a marriage dissolved in 1987) and, second, in 1987, Emma Nicholson (Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne), to whom he gave devoted support in her parliamentary career as a Conservative and later a Liberal Democrat MP. She survives him, with the son and daughter of his first marriage.

ALFRED SCHLEE

Alfred Schlee, music publisher, died in Vienna on February 16 aged 97. He was born on November 19, 1901.

The Viennese publishing house of Universal Edition has, since its foundation in 1901, played a crucial part in shaping the history of modern music. It has been the main outlet for some of the most important and influential composers of the century, among them Arnold Schoenberg, Alban Berg, Anton Webern, Béla Bartók, Karol Szymanowski, Leoš Janáček and Kurt Weill. As the firm's longest-serving employee, Alfred Schlee bore witness at first hand to the musical revolutions that swept through Europe and beyond in the early decades of the century and, with similar ferocity, soon after the end of the Second World War.

Throughout his long career, Schlee displayed a knack for tracking down the best and the most durable in new music. The high esteem in which he was held in the musical world was evident on the occasion of his 90th birthday when, at a concert given in Vienna's Konzerthaus by the Arditi String Quartet, no fewer than 20 distinguished composers, whose work he had tirelessly



Schlee witnessed musical revolution at first hand

promoted, offered tribute pieces in his honour. Among them were Luciano Berio, Pierre Boulez, György Kurtág, Olivier Messiaen, and Arvo Pärt. Well into his nineties, although visibly frail and officially retired, Schlee continued to support his protégés, attending, for instance, the Viennese premiere of *The Second Mrs Kong*, the Glyndebourne opera by a composer whom he had supported and published

long before he acquired the international reputation he now enjoys — Sir Harrison Birtwistle.

Alfred Schlee was born in Dresden and studied piano, cello and music theory from an early age. He continued his studies of musicology, composition, philosophy and theatre, in Munich, Leipzig and Vienna. At the same time he pursued the interest in modern art which was to remain

with him all his life. During the 1920s he became involved with the Bauhaus movement (collaborating with Oscar Schlemmer on his *Triadisches Ballett*); met Erich Kleiber during the premiere of Berg's *Wozzeck* in Berlin; made contact with the Brecht circle; and worked as a dance critic, répétiteur and, at theatres in Münster and Gera, as a dramatist.

Family problems meant that he was unable to complete his doctoral studies, but he had the good fortune to make contact with Universal Edition (UE), where a number of independent projects, including the editing of the firm's influential modern music journal *Arbeitskreis*, prepared him for the permanent relationship with the company into which he was soon to enter and to which he devoted the rest of his long life. His career was to stretch from the period of composition of Berg's *Lulu* in the 1920s and 1930s to the opera's triumphant Parisian premiere in *to* some fifty years later.

Schlee officially joined UE in 1927, working first for a short period at the firm's headquarters in Vienna, under the guidance of the head of the music theatre department

Hans Heinsheimer. He was soon given greater responsibility and in 1930 relocated to Berlin, where it was his duty to further the company's interests in Germany. Given UE's commitment to composers anathematised as "degenerate" by the Nazi authorities, it proved, of course, an uphill struggle, despite Schlee's best efforts, and in 1938 he returned to Vienna.

The years themselves were a testing time for Schlee, who, promoted to director, was one of the few permitted to remain on the company's staff. Perhaps because the company was based in Austria, UE was spared some of the pressure exerted on other houses to publish material of an overtly propagandist nature: its leading German rivals, such as Breitkopf & Härtel, Schott and Bärenreiter, all dutifully issued National Socialist songbooks.

Schlee not only succeeded in preserving a vast amount of condemned material for future publication, he also managed to publish a limited amount of new music, including a cantata by the blacklisted Webern. He was also able to add Gottfried von Einem and the Jewish Rolf Liebermann to the UE catalogue, and established cordial relations with the Swiss composer Frank Martin, whom he was later to publish.

After the war a new set of challenges presented themselves. With the exodus of many major music publishers, the virtual monopoly which Germany had enjoyed in the industry was effectively at an end. Rather than respond by attempting to build up a broadly based catalogue, encompassing music of all styles and periods, Schlee chose to reassert UE's commitment to music at the cutting edge of modernism. Not only were the firm's pre-war composers vigorously promoted, but a remarkable influx of new talent, pre-eminently Bertolt Brecht, Kurt Weill, Maurice Kagel and Karlheinz Stockhausen, soon found a welcoming home within the distinctive white covers of its immaculately produced scores.

Despite the acquisition to its catalogue of the minimalist Arvo Pärt, UE continues to this day as a publisher committed to the high modernist ideals of the greater part of the 20th century. Until his retirement in 1985, Schlee's career was inseparable from those of the composers he supported, major figures who continue, despite various anti-modernist backlashes, to lead the way in music today.

Alfred Schlee was an intensely private man, and even former colleagues only learnt of his death once the family funeral had taken place. He married Margarethe Molner in 1960. They had two sons.

SIR EDWARD PLAYFAIR

Sir Edward Playfair, KCB, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence, 1960-61, died on March 21 aged 89. He was born on May 17, 1909.

AFTER 22 years rising through the ranks of the Treasury, Edward Playfair found himself, in 1956 translated to the War Office as Under Secretary just before Suez. Both at the War Office and later at the Ministry of Defence, Playfair had a difficult row to hoe. In the aftermath of Suez there were drastic changes in the Army: the ending of National Service, the creation of an all-professional force, and massive reorganisations and cuts. In addition, this took place at a time when the Army was heavily engaged in a stream of brushfire campaigns abroad, various uprisings and the beginnings of the steady withdrawal from Empire.

Playfair's devotion to his defence posts cost him his chance to rise high in the Treasury, where he would have liked to end his Civil Service career. Consequently he felt highly aggrieved when, twenty years later, his name was suddenly before the public again as having been on an MIS list of suspected traitors to his country. This came about when, in July 1984, it was revealed that his name, along with those of more than forty other officials, including such known spies for the Soviet Union as Kim Philby, had been passed by MI5's mole-hunters (among them Peter Wright, later the author of the book *Spycatcher*) to the head of the service, Sir Martin Furlong-Jones, in the 1970s. Playfair, a former chairman of the trustees of the National Gallery and an old friend of the art historian and communist spy Anthony Blunt, vehemently denied the charges, and no more was heard of the matter.

Edward Wilder Playfair was the son of a physician. He was educated at Eton and King's College, Cambridge, of which he was a scholar. He took a First in the Classical Tripos (Part I) in 1928 and a Second in the Historical Tripos (Part II) in 1930 and in the following year joined the Board of Inland Revenue.

In 1934 he went to the Treasury where, ten years later, he was promoted to Assistant Secretary. In 1946 he was seconded to the Foreign Office and went to the Control Office, Germany and Austria, to take charge of finance. It was this service, and the close contact with the War Office, which made him a natural candidate to the War Office Under-Secretaryship when it later became vacant.

In 1947 he returned to the Treasury and by 1952 he had been promoted to Third Secre-



Playfair: avid pursuit of a wide range of knowledge

tary. In 1956 the post of Permanent Under-Secretary at the War Office fell vacant, and, after an unprecedented interregnum caused by the rejection or withdrawal of a number of candidates, Playfair was chosen by that office. In this esoteric department ripe for change he thus became to some extent identified with his predecessors.

In fact, his appointment marked a climactic in the affairs of the Army and of the War Office, as well as in his own career. Within two months, the Suez Canal was seized, and the long stop-go military preparations started for the Suez expedition. This was scarcely over when plans matured for a return to an all-regular Army, of a size governed by the controversial 1957 White Paper. The whole structure of the Army underwent drastic modification and reduction, with a lengthy aftermath of personnel redundancy and amalgamations of units.

In 1960 Playfair went on to be Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Defence. He stayed there only until mid-1961, when, finding the path of return to the Treasury barred, he left the Civil Service.

He next became Chairman of International Computers and Tabulators and accepted several other directorships, including those of the National West Bank and Glaxo Holdings. During the ICT selection process, it was remarked that Playfair had the mind of a computer.

In fact, his chairmanship of ICT fell in a time of rapid technological change. During his tenure, the business base was strengthened by the association of the computer branches of other firms, and a considerable measure of gov-

ernment support was attracted. In the end, however, there was a rearrangement of the top direction of the company, and Playfair resigned the chairmanship. But he kept himself mentally active with his other directorships.

Eddie Playfair was gifted with an exceptionally quick intellect, and an avid desire to acquire an extraordinary range of knowledge. He had many enthusiasms, some readily abandoned, some pursued with the greatest determination. Ideas flowed from his pen in great profusion. His ties with the press were close, and he was for several years a trustee of *The Observer*. He also took part in broadcast discussions, particularly on the Civil Service. He was never really at home among those whom he termed "the amateurs of soldiers", or in the rougher contacts of business life.

His true sphere was the Treasury, and there nothing can have been more congenial to him than the time when part of his responsibility related to museums and art galleries. He had strong artistic feeling and was a member of the Fine Arts Commission besides being chairman of the National Gallery, 1972-74.

His interest in education continued throughout his life: he was a governor of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, 1958-63, and served on the College Committee of the University of London, 1961-77. He was also a valued contributor to the obituary columns of *The Times*.

Edward Playfair was appointed CBE in 1949 and promoted KCB in 1957. He married, in 1941, Dr Mary Lois Rac (Molly), daughter of G. B. Rae, and had three daughters. His wife and children survive him.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

M. TSCHAIKOWSKI ON THIS DAY

March 23, 1888

Tchaikovsky, to give him the modern version of his name, was 48 on his first visit to Britain. He seems to have been greeted, critically, with guarded enthusiasm.

M. Tchaikowski, one of the leading composers of the Russian school, is at present visiting Western Europe, bent upon one of the pleasant errands that can fall to an artist's share. With a liberality unknown in countries where the purse strings are in the hands of popular assemblies, the Russian Government has granted him a travelling stipend for no other purpose apparently than that he should see and be seen and heard by various nations. In the case of a famous composer such a journey naturally takes the form of a triumphal progress.

For the last fortnight M. Tchaikowski has been the hero of musical Paris, where he has been *fin* at public concerts and in fashionable drawing-rooms: last night he made his first appearance before an English public, conducting two of his own works and being received with every mark of distinction. The occasion was indeed one of more than

both as composer and as pianist, but his name is German and so to a large extent is his music. One must go to such composers as Borodin and Tchaikowski to arrive at the peculiar flavour of Slavonic art; and to realize that Napoleon's saying of the thin coating of civilization that divides the Russian from the Tartar holds good in music also.

What we mean is not that the art of their master lacks in any sense culture; they also have been trained at conservatories and have imbibed the latest theories of the "advanced" German school; they are indeed mostly Wagnerians to the backbone.

But through it all one feels that here forces quite distinct from Western civilization are at work — rhythms, which immediately suggest the dances of peasants, intervals and harmonics which point through the medium of the Russian church service, to pentatonic scales and the modes of ancient Greece. It was this national colour which chiefly interested English amateurs in the works of Tchaikowski which have been heard in London so far.

Apart from this, he is master of the orchestra and his symphonies no less than his chamber music and his songs are marked by breadth of treatment and lyrical impulse. Perhaps for the same reason he has been less successful in dramatic music.

Henrietta Lake reports on the educating of industry

University to change way workers learn

The University for Industry has no campus or students and not will it train people directly, yet it has an ambitious aim to improve the competitiveness of UK firms by changing the way people learn.

In its early stages the UFI will target small firms, which often do not have the time or resources to spend on training their staff. Companies will be encouraged to set up their own computer-based training centres so that employees can be taught in their workplace using CD-Roms, video links and the Internet, or allowed time off, for example, in lunch-breaks, to go to courses at a local training centre.

In autumn 2000, when the UFI is launched nationwide, it will not run courses itself but act as a broker, offering courses and putting workers in touch with schemes at colleges, companies and even shopping centres or clubs. Where there are gaps it will commission new courses. It will set minimum standards and provide firms with benchmarks against which they can monitor the services they receive.

Last week the university's chairman, Lord Dearing, announced that the Government was committing £44 million to the UFI over the next two years and that by 2002 it hoped to be providing advice and information to 2.5 million people a year.

Lord Dearing, a former chairman of the Post Office, who has also been a non-executive director of Whitbread and Prudential, said: "The Government has made clear that the UFI is the centrepiece of its strategy to create a learning society. We aim to create learning 'without walls' which is flexible and relevant to the needs of businesses and individuals."

To encourage small and medium-sized firms to take part, courses will be designed specially for them, covering everything from basic numeracy and literacy to advanced management skills. There is discussion of corporate membership, under which a profile will be built of a firm's requirements so that it can be informed of relevant courses taking place nearby.

Lord Dearing added: "It will be a challenge to get through to small firms. We recognise that businesses need to see immediate benefits. So we are taking advice from companies about what they want; business management courses, for example, have previously been designed with the large firm in mind."

The UFI wants to get away from the image that learning is all about public-sector institutions and is focusing on delivering a new, lighter style of learning, attractive to, time-pressed business people.

Annie Wright, the UFI chief executive, said: "Learning centres will be close to where people work, while the affordable courses will be direct and to the point, in 'bite-sized chunks' and delivered in a relaxed, informal environment."

Bill Taylor, operations director of Precision Engineering Plastics, a manufacturing firm employing 28 people in North London, says that this new approach suited him when he attended a UFI pilot project.

Mr Taylor, who did not have to pay for the "taster" courses, said: "Money for training tends to be a little tight; it was only time I had to sacrifice. But this has been more than paid back as the Web pages that I learnt to construct have already generated inquiries and some sales."

The UFI will be based in Sheffield, but plans to reach small firms through intermediaries, including training and enterprise councils and trade associations. It will also encourage big firms to spread the word via supply chains.

In another UFI pilot project, BG Technology, the research arm of British Gas in Loughborough, has been working with smaller firms in its supply chain. It has invited suppliers to hour-long open evenings to discuss the advantages of training and the courses available in the area. It offers mentoring and is considering opening some of its internal training centres to smaller firms.

Greg Jones, manager of the project, said: "So much of our business is outsourced nowadays that it pays us in the long run to have access to well-trained people and generally improves the service we receive from all suppliers."

UFI organisers hope that demand for its services will also be driven by employees. The UFI may charge for brokerage or specialist guidance to businesses but basic skills courses to individuals will be free. People will be able to use the £150 credit from their individual learning account, which was announced in the Budget, towards a UFI course. Beyond this allowance, there will be discounts of up to 80 per cent for more courses. Employers will be able to contribute tax-free to their staff's accounts.

Brian Smith, the chief executive of Life-On, an electronics manufacturer in Northumberland with a turnover of £30 million, has seen an enthusiastic take-up of training by his staff. Life-On has a learning centre on site to which all 210 staff and their families have access. The centre, complete with ten computers that cost £11,000, is located near the cafeteria so that workers can save time by popping in during lunchbreaks and directly after their shifts.

"We have people in there doing everything from Maths GCSE to customer service courses and learning how to work spreadsheets," Mr Smith said. "We have seen a direct increase in the self-confidence and motivation of the workforce since we introduced the centre. Having staff with up-to-date skills and who are receptive to change will help us to achieve our targets of higher margins and turnover growth of 30 to 40 per cent year on year."

Over the next nine months the UFI will be busy commissioning products and issuing contracts to the first learning centres and people can expect a mainstream, hard-sell publicity campaign from spring 2000. However, a decision still needs to be made on its name. Research has shown that people are uncomfortable with the term university and a new consumer brand is expected to be announced in May. "Learning Direct", the name of the telephone helpline launched in January, is a hot favourite.

Learning Direct telephone helpline: 0800-100 900



Bill Taylor found that the new approach suited him when he attended a UFI pilot project

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Learning Direct telephone helpline: 0800-100 900

Part-time jobs aid recruiting

Part-time working is the key to the recruitment and retention of staff, according to a recent study by Gee Publishing. The business publisher surveyed 5,000 organisations in the UK to help other firms to formulate the most suitable flexible working practices for their company.

The survey, *Flexible Working*, analyses the effectiveness of practices such as part-time working, job-sharing, term-time working, teleworking, flextime, career breaks and outsourcing. Almost 67 per cent of the businesses questioned indicated that flexible working was an effective means of improving staff retention, while over half said that it was an effective aid to recruitment. Part-time and flextime were identified as the two most popular practices. Half the firms questioned used flextime schemes, mainly for administrative and clerical roles, which they perceived as an effective way to reduce staff absence.

The report concludes that job-sharing will soon rise in importance; more than 40 per cent of respondents believed that it could significantly help their human resources strategy, while the same proportion felt that home-based teleworking was of less use. For a copy of the study, call 0171-393 7666.

British Telecom has announced plans to bring the most sophisticated e-business applications, previously available only to large corporations because of high costs to small and medium-sized firms. A new online rental service called *BusinessManager* will offer small firms "enterprise resource planning" (ERP) packages which handle complex activities such as payroll, sales-force automation, accounting, customer relations management and logistics. It is fully millennium-compliant and ready for introduction of the euro. For more information, call 0800 515585.

Equifax and Yellow Pages have teamed up to offer small businesses a CD-Rom called *Business Select*, which helps them with their business-to-business marketing. Within the one CD-Rom there is financial information including performance and directors' details as well as contact details for 1.6 million businesses from sole traders to PLCs. For more information, call 0845-609 0150.

MEGAPHONE

Anthony Robb-John, owner of a chain of hairdressers called The Colville Group, based around Ransgate, says small businesses need more time to comply with the minimum wage. He employs 12 people and has an annual turnover of £200,000.

"I agree in principle with the minimum wage, but the Government fails to understand that businesses like mine need to change their entire cost structure to cope. I simply cannot do this in the time."

"With such low margins, it will be virtually impossible to find the extra productivity to cover the new costs of paying my casual staff the minimum wage. I'll have to cut back on their hours. The minimum wage will be introduced in eight days' time and I have yet to receive a mail-out offering advice from the Government."

Robb-John: low margins

Any company wishing to express a view in Megaphone should contact In Business

Small firms find safety and advice in numbers

Jackie Spray looks at what is on offer from four of Britain's business organisations

The Forum of Private Business

The Official Strength of Independent Enterprises

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RUNNING a business can be a lonely, grueling task, so the support offered through membership of one of the business organisations may come as welcome relief.

These organisations, of which the British Chambers of Commerce, the Institute of Directors, the Federation of Small Businesses and the Forum of Private Business are among the most established, have a representative role lobbying governments on issues that concern small and medium-sized enterprises. They can also help companies with compliance problems on everything from late payment to employment law and offer counselling services. There are useful networking opportunities for company chiefs and often discounts on anything from water bills to health insurance.

As with any fee-based membership, value for money will depend on how often services are used.

The British Chambers of Commerce are owned and run by their members. There are 60 chambers approved by the BCC, with more than 120,000 businesses represented. Membership fees are based on size of workforce: a sole trader pays £50, and a company with 50 staff pays £150 to £200, depending on the chamber. The main idea behind chambers is representation and networking; they also offer guidance on government policy and other issues. The BCC runs training courses for members and overseas trade missions, and offers

Advice, discounts and networking are among the benefits of belonging to one of Britain's business organisations

discounted services. Telephone bills are reduced, on average, by 20 per cent — after 87 discounts — and there is 10 to 17 per cent off gas and electricity bills, plus money off retail insurance. A discounted digital signature service called ChamberSign is to be launched next month to encourage use of electronic commerce. Contact: 0171-565 2000 www.bcc.org.uk

The Institute of Directors has an annual fee of £187, and a joining fee of the same sum. Members receive free business information, research and counselling, access to a club in Pall Mall, London, a monthly copy of *Director* magazine, *100 News*, business books, and the IoD Visa Gold Card — subject to status. They can use 16 UK airport VIP lounges whatever class of ticket is held. Members also have use of private meeting rooms at IoD centres, including an appointment service. There are discounts of about 20 per cent on corporate hospitality, hotels, travel services, business and personal loans, courses and conferences. Dis-

counted personal indemnity insurance premiums start at £357. A helpline on employment law will be launched in April; calls of up to eight minutes will be free. New IoD premises have been opened in Leeds, and this month sees a new centre in Nottingham, followed in April by Edinburgh. Contact: 0171-766 8888 www.iof.co.uk

The Federation of Small Businesses charges a £20 joining fee and an annual fee based on staff size. A sole trader pays £60 a year, and a 50-employee firm £240. The federation has 130,000 members and is 25 years old this year. It has 31 regions, each with a full-time organiser running meetings. A 24-hour legal helpline had 70,000 calls last year. There are discounted premiums on life, medical and legal insurance. Members receive discounts on telephone bills of 15 to 35 per cent, an affinity credit card, factoring discounts of up to 17 per cent on service fees, and 50 per cent discounts on hotels and car hire. Contact: 01253-720 911 www.fsb.org.uk

The Forum of Private Business asks members to pay between £50 and £500 a year. The sum is left to the company's discretion, but it is recommended that it is in proportion to the workforce. The forum was set up in 1977 to give small firms a voice in Westminster and to balance big business interests. Its 25,000 members are offered a helpline for IT queries, a free health and safety audit, discounts of 15 to 20 per cent on company insurance and an average of £600 a year off water, gas and telephone bills. A general information helpline advises on everything from employment law to the euro. The FFB is preparing a commercial credit service, based in Knutsford, Cheshire, with regional managers in London and the South East, the Midlands and the North. It has set up in Scotland. Contact: 01565 634467 www.fpb.co.uk

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David Beckham in action during his team's 3-1 win on Sunday. Beckham's three Fantasy points put him on 32 for the season. Photograph: Owen Humphreys, Allsport

A week to prepare for two £1,000 roll-over prizes

There are no matches being played in the FA Carling Premiership in the next seven days, but next week's Fantasy League page will publish player lists updated to include any new signings made in the annual rush to beat the transfer deadline.

Yesterday, for example, Blackburn Rovers completed the transfer of Lee Carlsley, the Derby County midfielder player, and it is unlikely that he will be the last player to move to a Premiership club.

Newcastle United also confirmed their interest in Dean Richards, the highly-rated Wolverhampton Wanderers central defender, while Leeds United seem to have joined Middlesbrough at the head of the queue of clubs hoping to bring Juninho, the Brazil international midfielder player, back to Britain from Atlético Madrid. Expect some new names from home and abroad to appear in the lists.

We will also announce the name of the winner of the £1,000 monthly prize for March, following one of the closest races yet, with two teams finishing on an identical number of points.

The winner of the ON-Target prize of £500 based on the numbers we publish today will be announced in a fortnight. So if your team's total points score, based on the updated player lists (right) comes to either 4 or 6, follow the instructions opposite and you could be a winner.

The following weekend is Easter. On Easter Tuesday, we will be publishing the usual two Fantasy League pages, to cover games played on Easter Saturday.

Since there will be no weekly prize next week, the weekly winner based on those games will receive a roll-over prize of £1,000. Points gained in games played on Easter Monday will be reflected in the player lists printed the week after.

The ON-Target winner based on the numbers printed on Easter Tuesday day will also receive a roll-over prize of £1,000.

From the Fantasy League point of view, last weekend was not a particularly high-scoring one, with



eight points, accrued by Matt Jansen of Blackburn Rovers and Chelsea's Tore Andre Flo the best individual performances.

Even so, Phil Clarke, our overall leader in the race for the £50,000 Times Fantasy League first prize, managed to maintain his 16-point advantage at the top of the leaderboard.

His team, Shabadi United, scored only nine points, but James Kerr, in second place before the weekend, did even less spectacularly: his team, Serious Squad, scored only seven. This allowed Sarajot Kohli, the youth league leader, to take second place in the overall rankings by amassing 12 points.

It may be worth noting that the top two teams share four players:

Michael Ball, Sol Campbell, Harry Kewell and Dwight Yorke. Campbell is benefiting from the tightening up of the Tottenham defence under George Graham. Ball shares the number three spot among full-backs with Celestine Babayaro and Nigel Winterburn, while Kewell is the top overall points scorer in the Fantasy League lists as well as the number one forward.

For legal reasons, The Times Fantasy League is no longer able to accept entries from players under 18 years of age. Players 17 years and younger who are already registered in the main and youth leagues will, however, be allowed to remain in the competition.

As I was saying . . .

There are no games that affect the Fantasy League next weekend, then.

No FA Carling Premiership games, if that's what you mean, but I think a major international could affect some of the players. They might get injured, or play brilliantly and gain a lot of confidence, or make a howler and lose their form. You never know.

I suppose you're right, but it doesn't affect me very much; I haven't got many England players in any of my teams. But lots of other players are representing their various countries, so you'll be in the same position as real club managers, hoping that their players finish the weekend in one piece.

Now you've got me worried, especially with the busy Easter weekend coming up in a fortnight's time: two games in two days for most teams.

You might have to do some nifty transfer dealing after the first set of fixtures: if you've got any transfers left, that is.

Oh yes, plenty. I've been saving them up for when I really need them. It's getting a bit late in the season for that, wouldn't you say?

Well, I certainly want to wait until after Thursday's transfer deadline in the real world, just to see what the flesh and blood managers are thinking. And some foreign talent might come into the lists.

Or even some players from the Nationwide League. That's a good point. Have

you got any hot tips?

Well, there's always talk of Robbie Keane leaving Wolves, and Lee Hughes didn't play for West Brom on Saturday, which some people have taken as being highly significant. Two talented goalscorers that a lot of Premiership teams would love to have.

Middlesbrough have been linked with both of them, haven't they? Middlesbrough are linked with virtually every expensive player that becomes available. But if you've already got a Boro player in your Fantasy team, you'd have to transfer him out before you could sign either of them - if they went to the Riverside, that is.

Ah, because when players move between Premiership clubs, they are still counted as playing for their original club, but new arrivals from the Nationwide won't be. Exactly, although my personal opinion is that neither Keane nor Hughes is suitable for Boro.

Not good enough? Not foreign enough.

Dear Mr Keenan, I'd be grateful if you didn't pick up my Fantasy playing on Saturday.



CHOOSE YOUR PLAYERS FROM HERE

Columns show: code, name, club, weekly points, total points, value (£m)

GOALKEEPERS

102	D. Seaman	ARS	37	37	3.0
103	A. Hogg	AST	12	12	2.0
104	M. Huggan	AST	9	9	2.0
105	A. Marshall	AST	1	1	2.0
106	J. Firth	BLA	1	1	2.0
107	A. Fothergill	BLA	1	1	2.0
108	S. Mc	CHA	1	1	2.0
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FULL BACKS

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CENTRE BACKS

301	S. Mc	CHA	1	1	2.0
302	S. Mc	CHA	1	1	2.0
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305	S. Mc	CHA	1	1	2.0

Flo's double brings joy to Sutton

Two goals from Chelsea's Norway striker helped Billy Boys to clinch this week's Fantasy League prize of £500 with 26 points

Chelsea are back. Not that they had ever been very far away — but the 3-0 victory at Villa Park on Sunday announced their challenge for the FA Carling Premiership was very much on track once again.

With Leeds United overtaking them on Saturday, and Villa on the sort of bad run that was bound to end sometime, Chelsea could have been forgiven a wary, safety-first performance. Instead, they produced a display that Gianluca Vialli, the Chelsea manager, described as one of their best of the season.

It was surely no coincidence that the match also marked the return to Premiership scoring form of Tore Andre Flo, the Norway international, who netted the first and third goals (either side of a Bjarne Goldback effort), both of which demonstrated a high degree of skill as well as a sureness of touch unusual in a forward player of his height (6' 4").

First he outpaced Gareth Southgate before dragging the ball back past the England defender and hitting a shot wide of Mark Bosnich. His second goal saw him time his run to perfection before touching the ball beyond Bosnich and scoring on the turn. No surprise, then, that the 25-year-old, who was signed from Brann and also played for Tromso, is our Fantasy player of the week.

Flo was sidelined for seven weeks with a knee injury in January and February but he scored against Valencia on Thursday and against Villa he looked back to his best.

Vialli said: "It's quite normal when you have an injury for a few weeks for someone to take a while to get back in form. We knew that, so we weren't too worried about Tore Andre's performances so far. He responded very well today. He's fully confident now, which is very good for the foreseeable future."

"We're a team which likes to play passing football, nice football, so we need somebody to put the ball in the back of the net as often as possible."

Gianfranco Zola had three or four chances today, as did Tore, so that shows we played well and the creative play of our strikers was very good as well. Looking at the way they played today, I think they're in very good form.

"We want to stay up there and fight for the title so this was very important for us after two home defeats," Flo said.

"We have not scored much lately. This was good for us and we can build from here. This was much better than we have played before. We still want to fight for the title."

Flo's two goals brought him six Fantasy League points, and his



Billy Boys

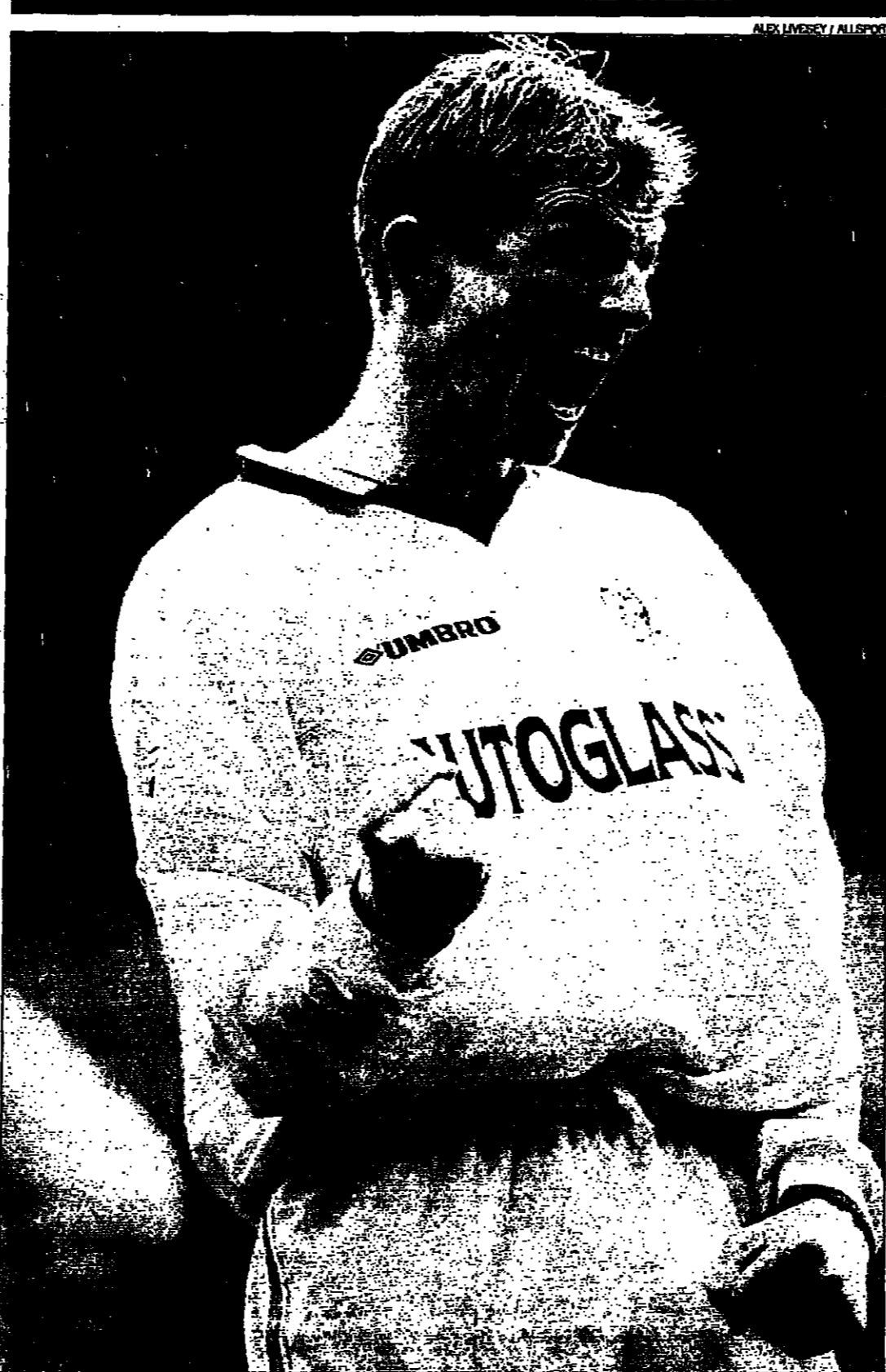
D Seaman (ARS)	3
C Powell (CHA)	3
I Harte (LEE)	3
M Elliott (LEI)	3
I Pearce (WES)	3
R Lee (NEW)	3
A Nielsen (TOT)	0
M Hughes (WHU)	2
D Beckham (MAN)	3
D Yorke (AST)	4
T A Flo (CHE)	6
Total points: 26	

assist for Goldback's strike makes a total of eight, which helped Billy Boys, the team chosen by William Tsang, of Sutton, Surrey, to take this week's £500 prize (plus £100 worth of sports equipment) for the Fantasy team of the week.

Dwight Yorke's two assists and David Beckham's free-kick goal in the Manchester United v Everton match on Sunday were worth another seven points, while clean sheets for Arsenal and West Ham meant three points each for David Seaman and Ian Pearce, a recent Fantasy player of the week. Ian Harte weighed in with another three, thanks to a curling long range effort against Derby County scored with his right foot, which is his wrong foot, if you see what we mean.

William, who attends St Dunstan's school in Sutton, will be especially pleased that the other two points came from Wimbledon's Michael Hughes, who was the second name on the team sheet after Beckham: the Tsang family are season ticket holders at Selhurst Park. "He chose Beckham first and then Hughes," Mr Tsang's father, Kin, said, "and then built the team around three or four key players."

FANTASY PLAYER OF THE WEEK



Tore of strength: Tore Andre Flo, Chelsea's Norway international striker, celebrated his return from a seven-week spell on the injured list with a goal in Europe last Thursday, and two more and an assist against Villa on Sunday — worth a total of eight Fantasy League points to those who go with Flo

FANTASY LEAGUE TOP 100

1	Phil Clarke	Shabadi United	367
2	Sarahjet Kuhl	Junglemen	341
3	James Kerr	Sonous Squad	339
4	Phil Tufar	Peter 7	331
5	Mark Coles	Joe Public	329
6	Mike Gidley	Nine Thrust	329
7	Brian Payne	Cosmopolitan IL	328
8	David Young	Dave 10	328
9	Robert Little	Broken Arrow	326
10	Michael McGinches	Sold At The Bar	326
11	David Tilley	Tilly FC	325
12	Lucy Crosswhite	I Hate Football	324
13	John Luffhous	Pin-Up 7	324
14	Phil Tufar	Yeah Right	322
15	Jonathan Cockburn	Olivernewjorn	321
16	Kevla Shiley	Chesura Champs	321
17	Robbie Harrington	Walsh Reserves	321
18	David Wise	Spike Town	321
19	Peter Lantham	Tuffy Terrors	320
20	James Wayne	Third Time Lucky	320
21	Mark Gaylor	Finchleystars	320
22	Darren Sawyer	These Eat Beans	320
23	Nicholas Kelsley	Hatchester Wh0?	320
24	Tim Gardner	Edmo Utd Mington	319
25	David Edmondson	Lakerspysystem	318
26	Alan Featherstone	The Eagle Boys	318
27	Carl Fife	Headstart Gunard	317
28	Colin Head	Als Bandits	317
29	Alan Purdy	Academicals	317
30	John Humphreys	In The City	317
31	David Mead	Gancho	317
32	Tom Summers	The M Team	316
33	Matthew O'Neill	Ruggers	316
34	John Wille	Midswindrop	316
35	Michael Scalle	Rural Raiders	315
36	Thomas Bailey	Sunish Stars	315
37	C Sharpe	Henri & Goals UU	315
38	Harletha Ball	This One's Mine	314
39	Andrew James Spencer	On The Wagon	314
40	Richard Deane	Popart's Army	314
41	Pauline Papart	Robert's Rovers	314
42	Robert Anderson	Doris Diamonds	313
43	Don Bader	Chapelown Elms	313
44	Nell Bradbrook	Minor Threat 15	313
45	Mike Gidley	Road Dabman	312
46	Tony Piller	Chicken Chasers	311
47	John Green	Scorch	311
48	Sarahjet Kuhl	Carl's Kesters	311
49	Scott Brett	Scotts Stars	311
50	Ron Albert	Cyclones	310
51	Steven Walls	Team Steve	310
52	Stewart George	Razor D	310
53	Philip Morton	Stall Vanit	310
54	John Anderson	The Odd Squad	310
55	Paul O'Neill	Four Four Two	310
56	John Wille	Metonymiser	310
57	Simon Lowe	Janices Heroes	310
58	Mike Treman	Tiger United	310
59	Gordon Crutchley	Super Saddlers B	309
60	Andy George	Midty's Magic 18	308
61	Clare Barber	Super Spurs	308
62	Nathan Carroll	Nat's Champs	308
63	Stuart Butler	Spartanville	307
64	Wendy Adames	Merfey United	307
65	Jo Tinsley-Cloves	The Future's Red	307
66	Bradley Woodbridge	The Business	307
67	Stephen Trup	Winners	307
68	James Baker	James Makers	307
69	Matthew Watson	Matts Magic	307
70	L. Sennack	Spartak Moscow	307
71	Donald Gordon	The Pashers	306
72	Clare Barber	Wally Wonders 2	306
73	Philip Hill	Poshes Babes	306
74	James Walsh	Tigers Argle	306
75	Angela Whitfield	Wesscountry Woods	306
76	Henry Coopers	Top Class Reject	306
77	Joseph Barley	Joran United	305
78	Tim McElah	He B G Seas	305
79	J. Pinnell	Grand Pan Piza	305
80	Mark Meyer	Cool Dudes Up	305
81	Donald Gubell	Doms Demons	305
82	Rob Petrovic	Roddy's Rovers	305
83	Christopher Wende	Nat's Army	304
84	Mike Ambler	At Stars	304
85	Peter Collins	Just A Bods Team	304
86	Andrew Caldwell	Winner City	304
87	Steve Dagari	Lukemoly No Go	304
88	Peter Donnelly	Goals 'R Us	304
89	Stephen Bales	Craft Rangers	304
90	Ralph Kishari	Millenumbiggers	304
91	Clare Barber	Inter Rascals	303
92	Donald Murray	Murrys Marvels	303
93	Paula Baxter	Baxters Babes	303
94	Vicky Bullen	El Tef's Revenge	303
95	Tony Newingham	Destiny	303
96	George Millington	Survivors 6	303
97	Chris Barwick	Owen Stromover	303
98	Nigel Byrne	Nigel's Team	302
99	John Wille	Milton United	302
100			

Plus seven others on 100 points

So your team is terrible? You can still win £1,000 next month

With no games next weekend, the prize for ON-Target in a fortnight's time will be a rollover bonanza of £1,000. Don't forget!

Congratulations to Rob Mitchell of Hatfield the main winner of ON-Target this week, who finds herself £500 richer and possessor of an EA Sports Pack. Fourteen other managers have also managed to win themselves excellent prizes.

Even if you do not have a Fantasy League team, you can enter this new game now — or enter a new one simply for ON-Target. All managers have the chance to win a share of £28,000 of new prizes. The Times has teamed up with EA Sports to offer you the chance to own the renowned FIFA 99 game. Every week you have the chance to win:

- 1st Prize: £500 plus an EA Sports Pack
- 4 runners up: EA Sports Packs
- 10 additional runners up: FIFA 99 CD-Rom.

Each EA Sports Pack contains: FIFA 99 for the PlayStation; FIFA 99 for the PC; EA Sports T-Shirt, keyring and mini football plus a record bag.

IF YOU already have a team in the main game, then you're ready to play ON-Target. Simply check your Fantasy League players' score each week and see if their total is the same as our ON-Target score shown here each Tuesday. If you have scored the exact target points, a quick call to our ON-Target winners' line (national rate call) will put you in the draw to win one of the 15 prizes.

The ON-Target score may be high or low. There could be more than one score (such as today). It could be a minus score. So it's worth checking your performance every week.

Just have your PIN-number handy to call the winners line on:

THIS WEEK'S ON-TARGET SCORE IS...

616

0670 901 4270
(0670 901 4270)

If you don't have a team, or want to sign up another one, enter now by filling in the entry form. There are no limits to how many teams you enter. Not only could you win the ON-Target prizes, but you could win the main game weekly (£500) or monthly (£1,000) prizes.

HOW TO ENTER: Look up your players' weekly point scores opposite and add them up, or call the checkline 0640 625 102. If your total score for this week matches the ON-Target number(s), then call our claim line on 0670 901 4270 (calls charged at national rate).



should last about a minute). Claims must be made before midnight on Sunday night. The lines then close until the next game starts on Tuesday morning.

If you have scored the correct number of points AND called the claim line, you go into the draw. Just look in the paper on the following Tuesday to see if you have won.

Managers with the correct points who have not called the claim line will not be entered. Calls that are incomplete, inaudible or invalid will not be entered. All teams in the draw must conform to the main game rules.

Winners

This week's winners are: Rob Mitchell of Hatfield (£500 plus EA Sports Pack); Colin Hargreaves of Wallasey; Elaine Newman of Ayrington; Ann Wille of Sonning (EA Sports Packs); David Hunter of Maldon; J. Hunt of Hailsham; Alan Tilling of Ramsey; Bill Hines of Oldham; Steve Dredge of Bath; Amy Fellows of Welwyn Garden City; J. Woodhouse of Liskeard; Jeremy Bayliss of Stamford-le-Hope; John Morgan of Hedham and Peter Tricky of Sutton Coalfield (Fifa 99 CD-Roms).

FANTASY LEAGUE QUIZ

Here is another gentle teaser to while away a few moments of your frantic day as a Fantasy League manager. Last week, we showed you Brian Deane (Middlesbrough), Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Leeds), David Howells (Southampton) and Geoff Thomas (Nottingham Forest), the only players to score against Arsenal in a league match at Highbury this season.

What do this week's quartet of winners have in common?

CHECK YOUR SCORES
TELEPHONE 0640 62 51 02

YOUTH LEAGUE LEADERBOARD

1	Sarahjet Kuhl	Junglemen	341
2	Tom Summers	Gancho	317
3	Matthew O'Neill	The M Team	316
4	Harletha Ball	Henri & Goals UU	315
5	Pauline Papart	Popart's Army	314
6	Robert Anderson	Robert's Rovers	313
7	Clare Barber	Super Spurs	308
8	Stuart Butler	Spartanville	307
9	Matts Magic	Matts Magic	307
10	James Griffiths	Griffs Eleven	302
11	Daniel Lewis	It's A Puppet	301
12	John Young	Noisemakers	301
13	Graham Booth	Manchester City	297



Harry Kewell: a member of Junglemen, the Youth leaders

Young guns running low on ammo

THE ENGLISH Premiership is often regarded as one of the most stamina-sapping leagues of the world and the long and gruelling campaign is certainly having a detrimental effect on some of the younger players, much to the cost of many managers in The Times Fantasy League.

After contributing a healthy 14 points in the first three months of his Fantasy League campaign, Lee Hendrie of Aston Villa has only been able to muster a solitary assist in the three months that have followed.

Not only have his usual array of accurate passing going off the ball, but Hendrie has also been hit by disciplinary problems and faces his second ban of the season immediately after the international break.

Several weeks ago John Gregory identified the fact that the hectic schedule was not bringing the best out of Hendrie, so he gave the youngster the opportunity of a break in the Caribbean. However, apart from a sun-tan it appears that he has not benefited too much as a result of the holiday.

Hendrie's team mate, Gareth

Barry, the central defender, has also suffered a decline in form after an impressive opening spell of the season. Although Villa's defensive slump may well be related to the loss of Ugo Ehiogu, Barry's own form of late also has to be questioned to the extent that you wonder whether he will even make the team when Ehiogu eventually returns from his eye injury.

There have been several youngsters who were hot property for several weeks earlier on in the season, only now to be distinctly forgotten figures. The likes of Paul Dalglish, Joe Cole and Mikkel Forssell all showed glimpses of talent before they bowed out of first team contention, with no sign of an imminent return to favour.

One man that certainly appears to get the best out of his youngsters is Leeds boss David O'Leary. He rotates Alan Smith in and out of the team with maximum effect, often forcing Harry Kewell to push up into attack, allowing the young Australian to cement his place at the top of the Fantasy League midfield leaderboard.

However, this could be the time to release the youngsters in your Fantasy League team in favour of some experience, but don't make the mistake of turning to Southampton's wily campaigner, Mark Hughes, for some much needed points.

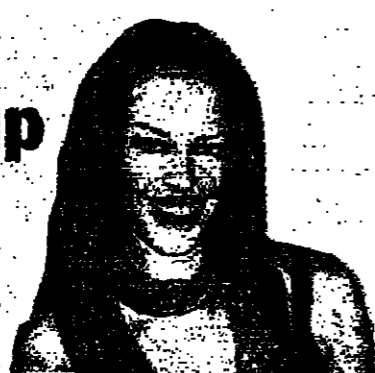
With no goals and just one assist from 24 games this season, Sparky just isn't cut out for this Fantasy League business!

MATT SMITH

Country: _____

Kylie whips up a storm

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BUSINESS • ARTS • LAW • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

Don't try children as adults

Law, page 39



BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MARCH 23 1999

Former bank chief joins premier league of golden handshakes



Jim Ffield: left EMI

Richard Oster: Cookson package

Malcolm Coster: Lorient deal

Don Carcieri: left Cookson

Alastair Lyons: Abbey payoff

Paul Buysse: BTR departure

Taylor in £1.6m Barclays payoff



Martin Taylor: also receives options

By CAROLINE MERRELL
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MARTIN TAYLOR, the former chief executive of Barclays Bank, received a £1.6 million payoff last year, bringing his total pay package to £2.5 million.

Mr Taylor left Barclays a little more than four months after disagreements over the future strategy of the bank, then reeling under heavy losses in Russia and excessive costs. Since reporting its results in February, however, Barclays has somewhat shed its tarnished image, and its shares have bounced. Yesterday they closed at £17.57, compared with a low of £8.3p in October.

The compensation payment is in lieu of one year's pay, plus the associated benefits Mr Taylor would have received if he had remained with the bank. The settlement process took into account a potential growth in the bank's profits in 1999 from

1998, when it reported a pre-tax profit of £1.918 billion, which slightly overshoot analysts' forecasts.

The disclosure is likely to anger banking unions, which are becoming increasingly militant. Barclays has shed more than 20,000 staff in the past seven years, and rank-and-file employees earn an average of £11,500 a year. Yesterday three banking unions agreed to merge, forging a super-union with almost 200,000 members.

Mr Taylor was on a one-year contract. A Barclays spokesman said: "This type of damages payment is usual for an executive that leaves by mutual consent."

His actual pay last year, excluding the compensation payment, rose 30 per cent to £957,000. This comprised basic pay of £568,000, an annual bonus of £369,000, benefits of £12,000 and profit related pay of £8,000. In 1997 Mr Taylor earned £738,000. The payoff puts Mr Taylor in the premier

league of "golden handshakes". According to the Labour Research Department, the highest compensation payment by far was made to Jim Ffield, who was paid more than £12 million upon his departure from EMI last year.

Richard Oster and Don Carcieri received £2.9 million and £1.5 million respectively after their departure from Cookson following a boardroom bust-up.

Mr Taylor's severance pay is the biggest among the financial companies, outstripping that of Alastair Lyons, the former head of the National & Provincial Building Society. Mr Lyons received £1.2 million when he left after N&P was taken over by Abbey National. It is almost double the figure received by Bill Harrison, also of Barclays, who was paid £946,000.

BTR's Paul Buysse left with a £1.1 million package, and almost immediately joined Vickers. Malcolm Coster left Lorient, the in-

formation technology group, after only eight months with a £1.8 million payoff.

The news of Mr Taylor's payoff comes in the week that Mike O'Neill, a former US marine, starts as chief executive of Barclays. Mr O'Neill is to be paid a basic salary of £2 million. He will also be given shares worth a total of £5 million, plus generous share options dependent on the performance of the bank.

The US banker's pay package far outstrips that of other UK banking chief executives. Last year Derek Wanless of NatWest was paid £832,000, an 84 per cent increase on the previous year. Yesterday NatWest pointed out the Mr Wanless and other executives had waived their bonuses in 1997, which accounted for the sharp rise in pay this year. Lord Alexander of Weedon, the NatWest chairman, also waived his bonus. Last year he was paid a total of £720,000, up from £434,000.

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Anatole Kaletsky
says the bulls can
lord it for a while

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STOCK MARKETS	
FTSE 100	6152.1 (+10.4)
FTSE All Share	2943.04 (+1.14)
Nasdaq	Closed
New York	8914.50 (+11.38)
S&P Composite	1300.24 (+0.55)
US RATE	
Federal Funds	4.75% (4.75%)
Long bond	5.57% (5.57%)
LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	5.75% (5.75%)
Libor 3m	117.38 (117.55)
STERLING	
New York	1.6228* (1.6229)
London	1.6278 (1.6250)
Frankfurt	1.6257 (1.6214)
Paris	2.3842 (2.3821)
Yen	191.86 (190.81)
S. Korea	102.0 (102.5)
DOLLAR	
London	1.0915* (1.0900)
Frankfurt	1.4630* (1.4603)
Yen	118.15 (117.15)
S. Korea	107.5 (107.4)
Tokyo close Yen	117.54
NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Jun)	\$13.55 (\$13.50)
GOLD	
London close	\$384.45 (\$383.75)
* denotes midday trading prices	
Exchange rates Page 25	

Top pay at Glaxo to keep pace with US firms

By PAUL DURMAN

SIR RICHARD SYKES and the directors of Glaxo Wellcome look set for further increases in their million-pound pay packets after the pharmaceuticals group amends its executive incentive schemes.

Sir Richard, chairman, received more than £3.6 million in salary, bonuses and shares last year but Glaxo is worried it needs to remain "competitive" with high-paying US companies.

William Steere, chairman and chief executive of Pfizer, the high-flying company behind Viagra, received a package worth \$17.2 million (£10.5 million) last year. Raymond Gilman, who heads Merck, the world's largest drug company, was paid \$2.56 million but also received stock options that could be worth a further \$14.1 million.

The board is on course to receive further huge sums under a long-term incentive plan. In 1998 Sir Richard received shares worth £1.8 million. Incentive shares already awarded could make another £1.8 million for Sir Richard this year.

The new options scheme proposes a performance hurdle that the company should increase its earnings per share by at least 9 per cent more than the retail price index over a three-year period before the options can be exercised. Current analysts' forecasts suggest Glaxo will beat this target easily.

Slowing economy lifts rate cut hopes

By ALASTAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S economy slowed close to a standstill in the last quarter of 1998, reviving City hopes that the Bank of England will cut interest rates next month.

Revised data showed quarterly GDP growth slowed to just 0.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year, half the previous estimate of 0.2 per cent.

However, hopes that consumers will help to stave off a full-scale recession remained intact after the breakdown in the data showed robust growth in income levels, while a consumer sentiment survey for March revealed confidence is at its highest level for nine months.

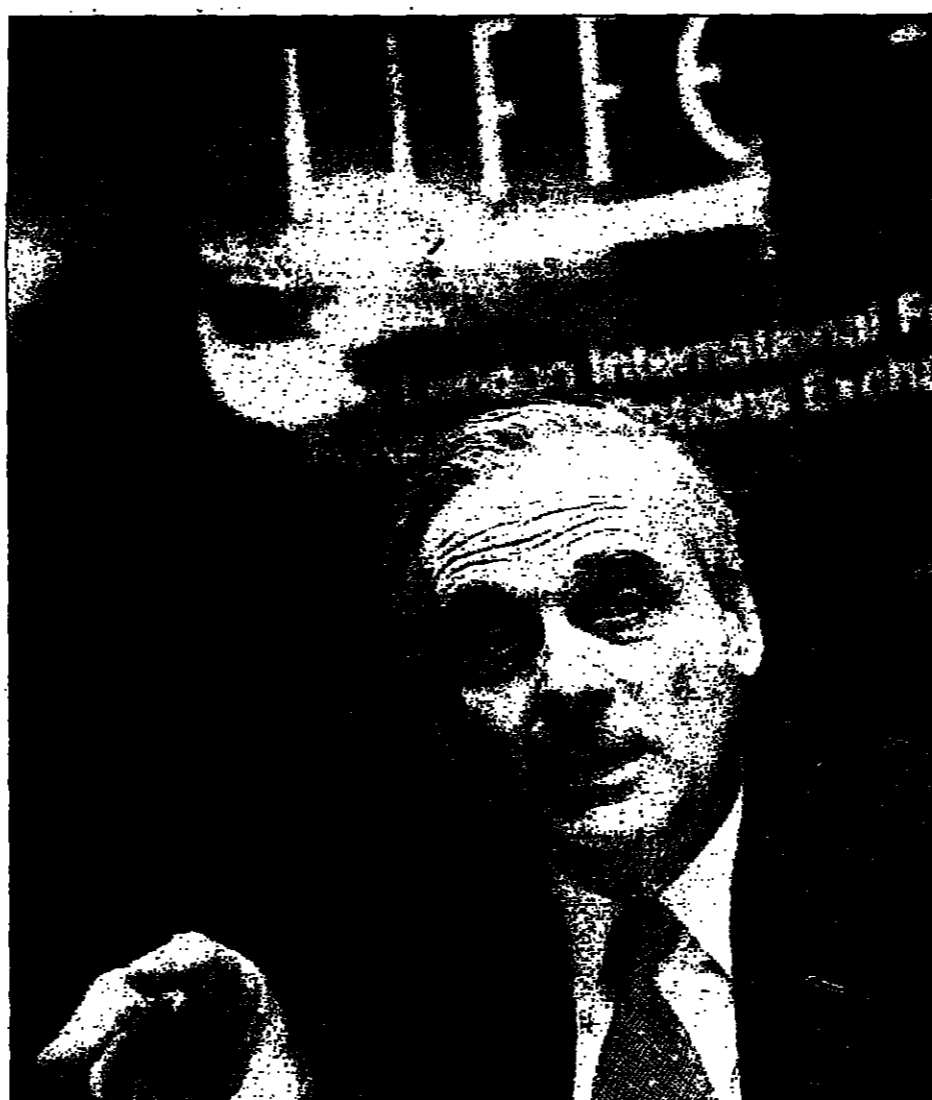
The downwards revision to the GDP figures resulted from an unexpected reduction in the quarterly rate of service sector growth from 0.6 per cent to 0.5 per cent. This also cut the annual rate of GDP growth from 1.3 per cent to 1.1 per cent.

Analysts said the lower growth levels could encourage the Bank to cut rates next month but added that the chances of an economic "soft landing" were actually improved by some of the data revisions.

Overall domestic demand was revised upwards from 0.4 per cent to 0.6 per cent. Stock levels were revised down, cutting GDP growth in the short term but suggesting that inventory levels offer less of a threat to growth this year.

Hopes that consumer spending will prop up the economy were also bolstered by a 2.2 per cent quarterly jump in real personal disposable income levels. This rise resulted in a rebound in the household saving rate, which rose from 6.3 per cent to 7.4 per cent.

Separate data also published yesterday showed a far healthier than expected current account surplus, adding to the impression that the economy is weathering the downturn. Britain posted a surprise £1 billion current account surplus in the fourth quarter of the year, mainly because of a jump in erratic investment income. This ensured a surplus of £1.5 billion across 1998 as a whole, the first time since the mid-1980s that Britain has posted a current account surplus for two consecutive quarters.



Brian Williamson, the former head of GNI, the Liffe firm that has suspended two traders

Liffe firm acts to suspend traders

By JASON NISSE

GNI, the futures and options broker founded by Brian Williamson, the chairman of Liffe and headed by him until last August, has suspended two traders amid a dealing scandal.

Both GNI, which is part of Gerrard Group, and Liffe are investigating the circumstances in which a GNI client discovered a series of unauthorized trades in short-dated sterling interest rate futures on his account. One transaction, dated March 4, appeared to have lost the client £200,000.

Both Liffe and GNI declined to comment, although Jamie Sheldon, GNI's chief executive, confirmed his firm had suspended two brokers.

The GNI affair comes as Liffe is preparing to publish its report into Refco Overseas, the US broker. Five traders are set to be disciplined and the firm is expected to be fined following a three-year investigation into irregular trading.

GNI, one of the largest brokers at Liffe, was founded by Mr Williamson with Christopher Sharples, who later became chairman of the Securities & Futures Authority.

Greycoat rejects £218m Delancey bid

By CARL MORTISHED

GREYCOAT, the Central London property developer, put itself up for sale yesterday, just hours after it had received a £218 million hostile bid from Delancey Estates, a rival property company controlled by George Soros and British Land.

Delancey's 201p per share offer was dismissed as derogatory by Greycoat's directors, who revealed that a strategic review had concluded that the board should seek offers for the company following the announcement of Greycoat's results for the year to March 31.

Peter Thornton, managing director of Greycoat, admitted the review had concluded investors were fed up with small companies. "One solution was

to put the company up for auction." However, Mr Thornton said the directors wanted to do it in their own time to get full value for shareholders.

Shares in Greycoat gained 32p to 200p yesterday, while Delancey lost 3p to 97p.

James Ritblat, Delancey's managing director, said: "The market wants the property sector to consolidate."

Mr Ritblat, the son of John Ritblat, chairman of British Land, said the enlarged group would have net assets of some £400 million and would qualify for the FTSE 250 index.

Greycoat has previously survived a rescue proposal by Hermes, the fund management organisation; attacks by UK Active Value, a discontented shareholder; and a bid ap-

proach from Moorfields. Delancey's current management took control nine months ago when it acquired Freehold Portfolios Estates, controlled by James Ritblat. George Soros's Quantum Realty Fund injected £100 million into Delancey. The Ritblat family now owns 7 per cent of Delancey.

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Commentary, page 29

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Arnault sweetens bid for Gucci

BY FRASER NELSON

BERNARD ARNAULT, chairman of LVMH, has lifted his takeover offer for Gucci from \$5 billion to \$7.9 billion (\$5 billion) in a deal that would give rival suitor Francois Pinault £144 million to walk away.

M. Arnault has agreed to recognise the 39 million shares that Gucci created for M. Pinault on Friday, and make a bid on the basis that LVMH will, in return, reclaim the \$2.9 billion cash injection that was promised by Pinault-Prinseppe-Redoube (PPR).

This leaves the net value of the bid at \$5 billion. M. Pinault, the richest man in France and the owner of Christie's auctioneers, would make a \$6-a-share profit on the shares he bought for \$75 a share four days ago. But if he accepts, he must sever all links with Gucci.

BERNARD ARNAULT

Age: 50
Estimated net worth: £1.5 billion
Main company: LVMH (capitalised at £2.1 billion). The Arnault family owns 49 per cent; controls voting rights.
Drinks: Moët & Chandon, Veuve Clicquot, Hennessy.

Fashion/Accessories: Louis Vuitton, Kenzo, Christian Lacroix, Guerin, Fred, Desfosses, Berluti, Pomme, Sephora.
Perfumes: Christian Dior, Givenchy, Parfums Christian Lacroix.
Retail: Le Bon Marché, DFS.

Yesterday Gucci and LVMH met in an Amsterdam court for the second time in two weeks, as M. Arnault tried to have the Pinault deal declared void and Gucci's supervisory board suspended.

He argued that the Italian fashion house should have consulted shareholders before completing the Pinault deal on Friday.

The court rejected both

claims, but instead ordered Domenico De Sole, Gucci's chief executive, to hold a full boardroom vote on M. Arnault's new bid at \$81 a share. It also ordered that no directors of PPR will be able to influence the deal.

M. Arnault had previously said he would not make any bid unless Gucci abandoned the Pinault deal.

Gucci said: "This is a victory

FRANCOIS PINAULT

Age: 65
Estimated net worth: £1.9 billion
Main company: Pinault-Prinseppe-Redoube (capitalised at £1.8 billion). Pinault family owns 40 per cent; controls voting rights.
Fashion/Accessories: Yves Saint Laurent, Sam-

sonite luggage, Chloé, Parfums: Yves Saint Laurent, Oscar de la Renta, Van Cleef & Arpels, Roger & Gallet, Kirin, Yarn.
Retail: La Frimousse, La Redoute, FNAC, Redoute.
Others: Christie's auctioneers, Christian Lacroix: shoe yard.

for us. M. Arnault has failed to sue us for a second time, and we have already said we are quite happy to look at the \$81-a-share bid."

M. Arnault's advisers were also claiming victory of sorts, in that Signor De Sole is now obliged to study the takeover proposal. Under Dutch law, this will be put to shareholders after the boardroom vote for a period of 20 days.

Observers say that M. Arnault's new bid has been forced by his fear that M. Pinault will start a rival fashion business to compete his own stable, which includes Kenzo and Christian Lacroix.

M. Pinault has already bought the perfume division of Sanofi for £616 million — and he proposed selling it on to Gucci as a "wedding present" to start its new luxury goods

empire. He intended that its \$2.9 billion of cash should be spent buying other small fashion houses, a domain currently dominated by M. Arnault's LVMH.

M. Pinault and M. Arnault have both made their fortunes from buying bankrupt companies from the state and selling them on. They are both experts in exploiting family and boardroom rifts to take control of companies.

M. Arnault has been building a 34.4 per cent stake in Gucci since January, and had been in dispute with Signor De Sole over his right to appoint his own representative to the Gucci board.

The Pinault deal dilutes LVMH's stake to 20.2 per cent, and reduces its voting rights to 17.8 per cent. Gucci is quoted in Amsterdam and New York. Its shares have been recovering from a \$32 low in September.

Westminster recommends £214m offer

BY PAUL DURMAN

WESTMINSTER Health Care became the latest critic of the City's attitude to smaller companies when the nursing homes group recommended a £214 million takeover offer led by Chal Patel, a prominent figure in the industry.

Backing from Goldman Sachs and Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe (WCAS), a US buyout firm, enabled Dr Patel's privately owned Canterbury Healthcare to offer 31p a share for Westminster. Although this price is 68 per cent more than Westminster's share price last week, it is still well below the 410p its shares reached early last year.

Pat Carter, Westminster's chief executive, said: "Being a small company in an unfavourable sector is not a hugely exciting place to be. Markets do not take long views, or a lot of the market doesn't."

The growth prospects of providing nursing homes for an ageing population briefly made Westminster a strong performer after its flotation in 1993. But a local authority squeeze on nursing home spending and the Government's move to increase nurs-

es' pay caused Westminster to issue two profit warnings last year.

Dr Patel, the founder and former chairman of Court Cavendish, lost out to Bupa 15 months ago in a £273 million bid battle for Care First, another nursing homes group, where he was briefly chief executive.

Dr Patel yesterday said that Westminster is likely to seek a return to the stock market at some stage. He ac-



Patel: expansion hope

knowledgeed the problems faced by small companies but added: "The City's views of things change. We very much hope to make the company significantly larger."

Dr Patel wants to expand into Europe and to increase Westminster's share of the UK nursing homes market from 1 per cent to 5 per cent. He said: "We believe some of the issues surrounding staffing will, over a period of time, go. Demographically, the need for nursing services is not going to diminish."

Mr Carter will remain as a consultant for a handover period, but he intends to seek opportunities in other sectors.

Dr Patel and Anthony Heywood, formerly his finance director at Court Cavendish, will have a 1.34 per cent stake in Canterbury after it acquires Westminster. Funds associated with Goldman Sachs and WCAS will each have a 49.33 per cent stake.

Westminster was advised by NM Rothschild. The company was first approached by potential bidders in mid-January. It has spoken to an unknown number of other parties. *Tempus*, page 30



Jim Brown unveiled a 16 per cent rise in Newsquest profits

P&S press group puts its stores up for sale

BY RAYMOND SNOODY
MEDIA EDITOR

Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, the regional press group, has formally put its chain of more than 200 convenience stores on the market.

The sale of the chain, which is located mainly in the South of England and the Midlands and is expected to fetch more than £50 million, is the clearest sign yet that P&S's board may be willing to give in to one of the suitors chasing it.

Three other quoted local newspaper groups — Johnston Press, Newsquest and Newsweek — have all shown interest in buying P&S, but none of them is interested in running the convenience stores. P&S has previously insisted that the stores were an integral part of the group.

Newsquest, which is trying to position itself as a "white knight" to P&S, yesterday announced a 16 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £65.8 million in the 53 weeks to January 3. The group, chaired by Jim Brown, achieved an underlying increase in advertising revenue of 6.7 per cent and although there was a slowdown in the final quarter, advertising has bounced back in the first quarter of the current year. The final dividend will be 4p, making 6p for the year.

Tempus, page 30

Barclays Bank PLC

Notice to Barclays Student and Graduate Account Customers

From 19th April 1999, the credit interest rate for your Student - Higher Education or Graduate account will be as follows:

Rates for quarterly interest on balances of £1 or more		
	Gross Rate/AER*	Previous Gross Rate/AER*
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With effect from 19th April 1999, our unauthorised overdraft rate will be charged at a rate of 21% above the Bank's Base Rate, which is currently 5.5%, on the excess amount only.

The total rate would then be 26.5%.

* Gross Rate - interest is payable gross to non-taxpayers subject to the required certification. AER - stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year.

† The current Base Rate is 5.5%, this may vary.



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UK regulator blocks plans for Glaxo drug

BY PAUL DURMAN

GLAXO WELLCOME yesterday received its second regulatory setback in a month when the UK Medicines Control Agency blocked its plans to re-start promotion of Romozin, a controversial diabetes drug that has been linked to a number of deaths in the US.

Glaxo was unable to convince the UK regulator that the drug, developed by Sankyo of Japan, could be made safe if patients took regular liver tests.

This could be bad news for Warner-Lambert, the US company that sold almost \$750 million (£463 million) of the drug it calls Rezulin last year. An advisory committee to the US Food and Drug Administration is due to review the safety of the drug on Friday.

SmithKline Beecham is likely to be the main beneficiary of the problems with Romozin/Rezulin. Avandia, its rival



Sykes: optimistic

product, which is currently being reviewed by regulators, appears to raise fewer safety concerns.

The FDA last month turned down Glaxo's application for marketing approval for Relenza, a treatment for influenza. The drug has secured the go-ahead in Sweden but the US

agency was concerned by Relenza's poor performance in an American trial that was the largest conducted.

Glaxo voluntarily suspended its marketing of Romozin in December 1997 after deaths linked to the drug were reported in the US and Japan. However, Sir Richard Sykes, chairman, was optimistic about the chances of its being reintroduced to the UK.

The MCA decided that, even with liver testing, "the data and arguments submitted did not give assurance that the balance of risk and benefits could be made favourable". Warner-Lambert argues that liver monitoring can reduce risks "to an absolute minimum".

It is thought that Glaxo is unlikely to make further attempts to secure approval for Romozin.

Glaxo shares, which peaked at £22.88 in January, fell 12p to £19.01 yesterday.

Regent Inns calls off merger talks

REGENT INNS yesterday broke off merger talks with SFI Group after the two sides failed to agree on the relative value and prospects of their respective companies. Analysts said that while Regent was looking for a 60/40 split in value terms, SFI had been pushing for a 50/50 merger of equals. Based on yesterday's closing shares prices, Regent is capitalised at £155 million while SFI is worth £115 million.

David Franks, managing director of Regent, said that the predicted cost savings had also proved a problem as Regent had been forced to spend heavily on a new infrastructure after its profit warning in June. "Our costs are quite high but dropping while SFI's are low," he said. Mr Franks added: "Regent has a solid future. It has a strong portfolio of brands and a pub opening programme that will ensure the company's future development. Current trading remains strong, with like-for-like sales for the first 36 weeks of the year up 2.6 per cent." The companies had been in talks since the beginning of February.

Media invitation

LETIZIA MORATTI, executive chairman of News Corp Europe, yesterday said she had been "reluctant" back into talks with Silvio Berlusconi's Mediaset and the Kirch Group, the continental television groups that agreed a pan-European media alliance at the weekend with the backing of Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi financier. Mrs Moratti has been given the task of building up the European media assets of The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

TI's American buy

TI GROUP, the UK engineering company, has acquired Tri-Manufacturing from GE Aircraft Engines for \$58 million (£36 million). The acquisition will be incorporated into Dowty's turbine engine components business at an estimated one-off cost of \$3 million. The acquisition is expected to enhance earnings in its first year. Tri-Manufacturing, based in Indiana, makes jet engine hot section components. Customers include Pratt & Whitney. Its 1998 sales were \$64 million.

UNIFI aims to grow

A NEW self-styled "super-union" representing 200,000 City and financial industry workers plans to expand membership to one million by recruitment and possibly merging with other staff groups. The new merged union, to be called UNIFI, won backing from members of the existing UNIFI and of Bifu and the NatWest Staff Association at the weekend. Ed Sweeney, Bifu leader, said: "This is a clear message to the finance industry that staff need and want one voice."

Chesterfield delays

SHAREHOLDERS in Chesterfield Properties, the embattled property investor, yesterday delayed the £93.5 million sale of a portfolio of the company's assets to enable takeover talks to proceed. The delay was prompted by an approach from Quintain Estates that might lead to a takeover offer. Chesterfield shareholders agreed to adjourn yesterday's meeting at which they were to vote on the sale of the properties to GE Capital Corp. Chesterfield shares closed 31½p higher at 426½p.

Forth Ports on the up

FORTH PORTS, the port owner and operator, announced a 27 per cent jump in pre-tax profit yesterday to £31 million for 1998. An increase in steel tonnages of almost 50 per cent at Grangemouth led Forth's efforts to push aside the impact of the economic slowdown. The result came from a 13 per cent rise in turnover to £108 million. Forth declared a final dividend of 11p a share, making 16p for the year compared with 14.5p previously. Forth shares closed 2¼p lower at 592½p.

Microsoft 2000 launch

MICROSOFT has responded to pressure from rival corporate software systems by telling staff that it is on track to release its new Windows 2000 program by October. Windows 2000, the software company's next generation of program for large corporate computer networks, is Microsoft's latest effort to beat systems designed by Sun Microsystems and Novell. Smaller rivals, such as the Linux, have created problems for Microsoft's existing Windows NT system.

Peptide losses worsen

PEPTIDE Therapeutics, the vaccines company, said its \$20 million (£12 million) acquisition of OraVax, a US rival, will give it eight products in clinical trials and collaborations with five of the world's top ten pharmaceutical companies. Peptide incurred increased losses in 1998 of £7.5 million, despite reductions in research and development and administrative expenditure. The company hopes to restrict its cash burn to £1 million a month after taking over OraVax.

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank		
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell		
Australia \$	2.66	2.49	Italy Lit	3073	2898
Austria Sch	23.59	19.69	Japan Yen	207.37	189.54
Belgium Fr	65.55	58.59	Malta	0.577	0.555
Canada \$	2.573	2.395	Netherlands Gld	3.488	3.193
Denmark Kr	0.00946	0.00831	New Zealand \$	3.19	2.85
Egypt	5.79	5.45	Norway Kr	13.22	12.29
Finland Mk	6.45	6.70	Portugal Esc	312.51	290.46
France Fr	10.28	9.50	S Africa Rd	10.68	9.70
Germany Dm	3.050	2.848	Spain Ptas	260.45	241.65
Greece Dr	507	468	Sweden Kr	14.16	13.05
Hong Kong \$	13.43	12.23	Switzerland Fr	2.541	2.333
India Ru	129	109	Turkey Liras	613.72	579.03
Indonesia	18298	13206	USA \$	1.733	1.590
Ireland Pl	2.2329	1.1439	Rates for street demonstration business only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.		
Israel Shk	6.90	6.24			



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1999

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Payoffs Taylor-made for performance



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Martin Taylor will, no doubt, find a tax-efficient way of dealing with his £16 million payoff. He did, after all, help out the Government by investigating how the country's tax and benefits systems might be improved. So the benefits now being collected by the former Barclays chief executive are likely to escape criticism by that castigator of corporate largesse, Chancellor Gordon Brown. Shareholders, however, should be feeling less muzzled.

It seems increasingly rare for any chief executive to leave a company without a generous donation to his bank account. Companies apparently feel obliged to pay up to the end of the executive's contract, no matter what the circumstances of their departure. Thank heaven that the sensible Alistair Ross, Cooney, of Hermes, the fund manager, pursued his campaign to put an end to the aptly named "three-year roller". Many a tired chief executive must have felt inclined to cash in on one of those and head for an early retirement in the South of France.

But even if only 18 months money is involved, it is cowardice on behalf of companies to feel that large sums of shareholders' cash should be paid out when relationships turn sour.

Last December, when Martin Taylor abruptly ended his reign at Barclays, there was no doubt about the fact that he had resigned. He had decided to go and

he had decided to go quickly, explained Sir Peter Middleton.

In his first years at Barclays, Mr Taylor had achieved much. But that all was not sweetness and light within the boardroom had been increasingly clear. Mr Taylor was fed up with what he deemed a lack of support from his fellow directors. They, in turn, were wary of some of his strategies. That his departure was accompanied with a profit warning was an eloquent comment on what had been going on.

He may not have been paid as much as his successor will be, but Mr Taylor was not badly remunerated while he was doing the job. Now, rightly, he is to hold on to the share options that he earned during his years at the bank and which should yield him considerable profits. But why should he be paid for the time that he will not be working for the bank?

Investors make much noise about remuneration policies but rarely take action. Yet there is a growing need for shareholders to appraise their attitude to the subject. The Glaxo-Wellcome annual report may encourage them to do so. With carefully chosen words, Sir Richard Sykes and his team gently indicate that they want to be able to pay executives rather

more than they do now. Global companies need to offer the chance of US scale rewards, goes the argument. The pay packet of Mr Taylor's successor demonstrates the point.

The key is performance. Investors should not cavil at rewards geared to performance, since they will benefit too. But they should start making a fuss about rewards for non-performance and resignation.

Banks find euro way to monopoly

According to Martin Kohlhaussen, chief executive of Germany's Commerzbank, big bank mergers are a fashion that will soon fade. Rather than synergy, there is usually a loss of know-how and any profit gains, if they come at all, take much longer than expected.

The fashion, at least, is undeniable. A new round of mergers in Italy follows a bigger one in Spain and a typically grandiose

attempt in France to create the world's biggest bank.

This is an instant response to the advent of the euro, which theoretically turns euroland into a genuine single banking market.

All the high-cost banks that flourished in most national markets would then suddenly become vulnerable to any international competitor that has pushed its costs down on to a lower plane.

If that really is the case, it is an odd response. With few exceptions, the grand mergers are within member states, not across borders. The euro offers an excuse to consolidate local monopolies in the popular cause of keeping out the foreigner.

No wonder that Commerzbank, as one of the foreigners in question, is exasperated. It aims for the softly-softly approach, taking stakes in retail banks abroad including, it hoped, a privatised Credit Lyonnais. The concept of a grand national French bank is more clearly political than most, aimed at keeping out the Germans most of all, but Swiss,

Dutch and British too. Lloyds TSB once pondered buying Lyonnais but soon found that foreigners cutting French jobs was off the national agenda.

Mind you, it work both ways. When Lyonnais was shamelessly bailed out for the third time, the main EU condition was that it sell its subsidiaries in Germany, Belgium and Spain, though not those in Britain. So much for the fraternal spirit of a new Europe.

In European terms, these national bank mergers are deeply conservative, designed to protect entrenched interests and avoid any great incursion of competition. At home, however, they are revolutionary. In Italy that was symbolised by the new brutalists overturning the subtle plans of Enrico Cuccia, the 92-year old who has called the shots in Italian finance for decades from his modest base at Mediobanca, which is itself now imperilled.

In the UK, naturally, we are stumbling myopically in circles, not because anyone agrees with Herr Kohlhaussen, but because

the urgency brought over there by euro passes us by.

The consequence is that, in banking as in insurance, the huge national firms built up through much of the rest of Europe will pick off Barclays, NatWest and most of the lesser banking groups at their leisure.

The right time for Wallace to impress

When Graham Wallace was appointed chief executive of Cable & Wireless, luck did not seem to be on his side. Only weeks into his job, Germany's Veba offloaded a 10 per cent stake at a heavily discounted price, sending the company's shares into freefall.

That luck has now changed. Thanks to yesterday's \$60 billion merger of MediaOne and Comcast in the US, C&W at last has a realistic chance of gaining control of One2One. Britain's smallest mobile phone operator.

Comcast could raise up to £5 billion by selling MediaOne's 55 per cent stake in One2One to C&W, allowing it to concentrate on its core cable business. The pressure is now on Mr Wallace to push through a deal quickly and at a good price, and then

float off a minority stake in the company. After all, the value of One2One is clearly not represented in C&W's current share price. Such a strategy would be entirely consistent with the way Mr Wallace's predecessor, Dick Brown, successfully floated C&W Optus in Australia.

If Mr Wallace really wanted to impress, however, he would also take the opportunity to put a bid in for MediaOne's 29 per cent stake in Telewest. This would be a great way of launching a bid for the British cable operator, with the ultimate aim of merging it with Wallace's former employer, Cable & Wireless Communications. The only snag is that TCI of the US — currently being bought by AT&T — has the first right of refusal. That would not have stopped Dick Brown.

Keep it in the family

RITBLAT JUNIOR sounded like a chip off the old office block yesterday as he denounced the performance by Greycoat. With the backing of no less a person than George Soros, young James is well placed to engineer the long-needed consolidation among second-line property companies.

If James succeeds, he could begin to build a rival to British Land, where Nick Ritblat is rapidly rising up the hierarchy. Proud father John, with cash in Delancey, sees no conflict in backing the two boys. Not yet.

Morgan sees Asian recovery

By ADAM JONES

MORGAN CRUCIBLE, one of the engineering companies hardest hit by the global financial turmoil last year, continued its cautious recovery yesterday, citing signs of an export-led revival in Asia.

Morgan Crucible's shares had been trading at 501p at one stage last year, before the Asian crisis and the semiconductor market collapse.

When the engineers, which makes carbon and ceramic parts used by industry, issued a profits warning in January, saying that it was the victim of a "swift and savage" downturn, the shares fell to 183p.

Yesterday's annual results provided no new shocks, and the shares, which have rallied in recent weeks, stayed relatively firm, falling 3p to 247p.

Pre-tax profits for 1998 were £33.9 million, down from £112.1 million in 1997. The fall reflected a £57 million exceptional charge, taken because goodwill had to be written down on several businesses before they are sold. Sales rose from £890.7 million to £900.4 million.

The market was interested in a more upbeat assessment of Morgan's markets. As well as optimism over Asia, Ian Norris, chief executive, said that US steelmakers who use Morgan parts are recovering from a flurry of cheap, imported competition. Orders that were deferred are now almost entirely back on track.

Mr Norris said Europe remains stable and he hopes that the semiconductor market will revive in the second half of this year.

Mr Norris also wants to continue reducing the number of businesses in the group, from about 160 to 100, through internal reorganisation.

By the end of the year, Morgan will also have shed 1,000 jobs. About 700 people have already been made redundant in 1999, including 300 in the South Wales and the Midlands.

Earnings per share fell from 32.8p to 0.7p, reflecting the exceptional charge. An 8.5p dividend makes 15.9p (15.5p).

Temps, page 30

Roxboro profits 11% ahead

By ADAM JONES

ROXBORO, the sensors and controls group, shook off weak Asian markets and the slump in the oil industry to report an 11 per cent rise in profits last year.

Pre-tax profits rose to £17.5 million as margin growth in the sensors and components divisions compensated for leaner order books elsewhere.

Harry Tse, chief executive, said that he expected the civil aerospace market, which is responsible for about 23 per cent of sales, to peak in 2000.

However, Roxboro announced that it has won a contract to supply temperature sensors to the Rolls-Royce Trent 500 engines that will be powering the new Airbus A340-500/600.

Sales rose from £111.4 million to £114.2 million. Earnings per share rose from 19.1p to 21.6p. A dividend of 5.4p will be paid, making 8p for the year, an increase of 10 per cent on 1997.

Maiden advance for Friends

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

FRIENDS Ivory & Sime, the fund management group created in February last year by the reverse takeover of Ivory & Sime by Friends Provident Asset Management, yesterday declared a £14.1 million pre-tax profit at its maiden final result.

The pre-tax profit from February 18, 1998, until the end of the calendar year compares with the £3.4 million pre-tax profit achieved by FPAM in the 12 months up to the takeover of Ivory & Sime, the Edinburgh-based investment trust house.

Turnover more than doubled to £39.7 million, helped by the acquisition of London & Manchester, the insurance group, later in the year. Funds under management finished the year at £30 billion, with £3 billion of that generated by stock market returns.

A final dividend of 4p is proposed, bringing the total for the year to 7p. This is equivalent to 8.06p on an annualised basis, an increase of 10 per cent.

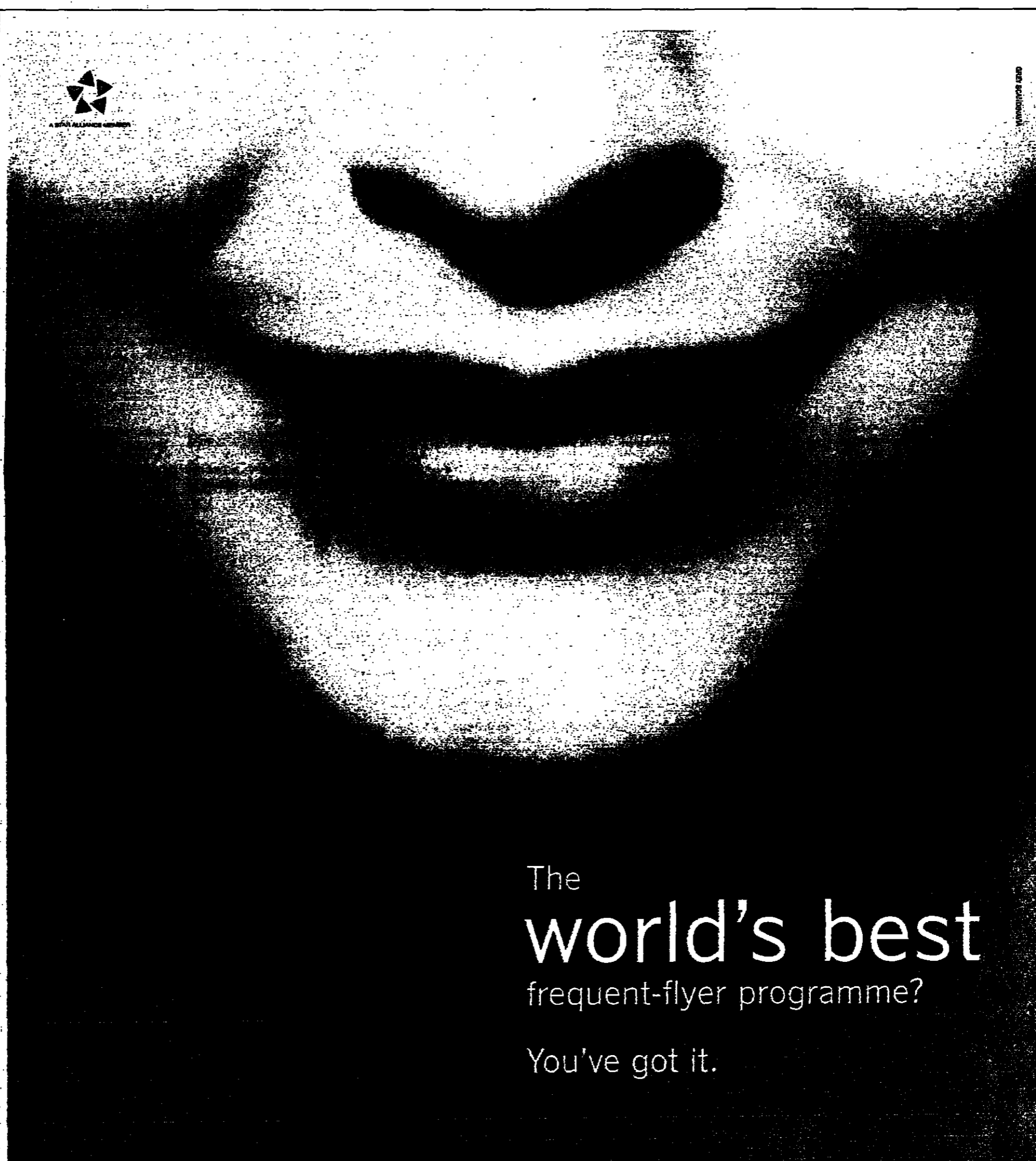
Somerfield acquires delivery service

SOMERFIELD, the supermarket group, has bought Flanagan's, the London-based grocery delivery service formerly used by J Sainsbury (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The business, for which Somerfield is paying £3.25 million cash, will be used to expand Somerfield Direct, Somerfield's own home delivery business. Sainsbury's ended its agreement with Flanagan's last year.

Dominick Scott-Flanagan, founder, and David Noble, his business partner, will be joint managing directors of Somerfield Direct, a new, wholly owned subsidiary of the supermarket group.

David Simons, chief executive of Somerfield, said: "The launch of Somerfield Direct is an important strategic development for us." Flanagan's last year had sales of more than £4 million.



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ANATOLE KALETSKY

Dow's past portrays all its bulls running out of steam

Talk of a bubble on Wall Street is premature but the exalted price of shares cannot last

With the Dow Jones Industrial Average challenging the previously unthinkable target of 10,000, predictions of impending calamity not only for Wall Street, but also for America and the entire world economy — are becoming widespread, as they have at each of the previous symbolic milestones of this great bull market.

The American media, bored with non-eventful Year 2000 stories, have suddenly discovered Dow 10,000. This time, however, the Jeremiahs are being drowned out by the cries of jubilation from the many brave American investors who ignored the bearish conventional wisdom and the self-satisfied sniggers of the small band of Wall Street analysts who have stubbornly, and correctly, stuck to their bullish instincts since the start of this record-breaking rally in early 1995.

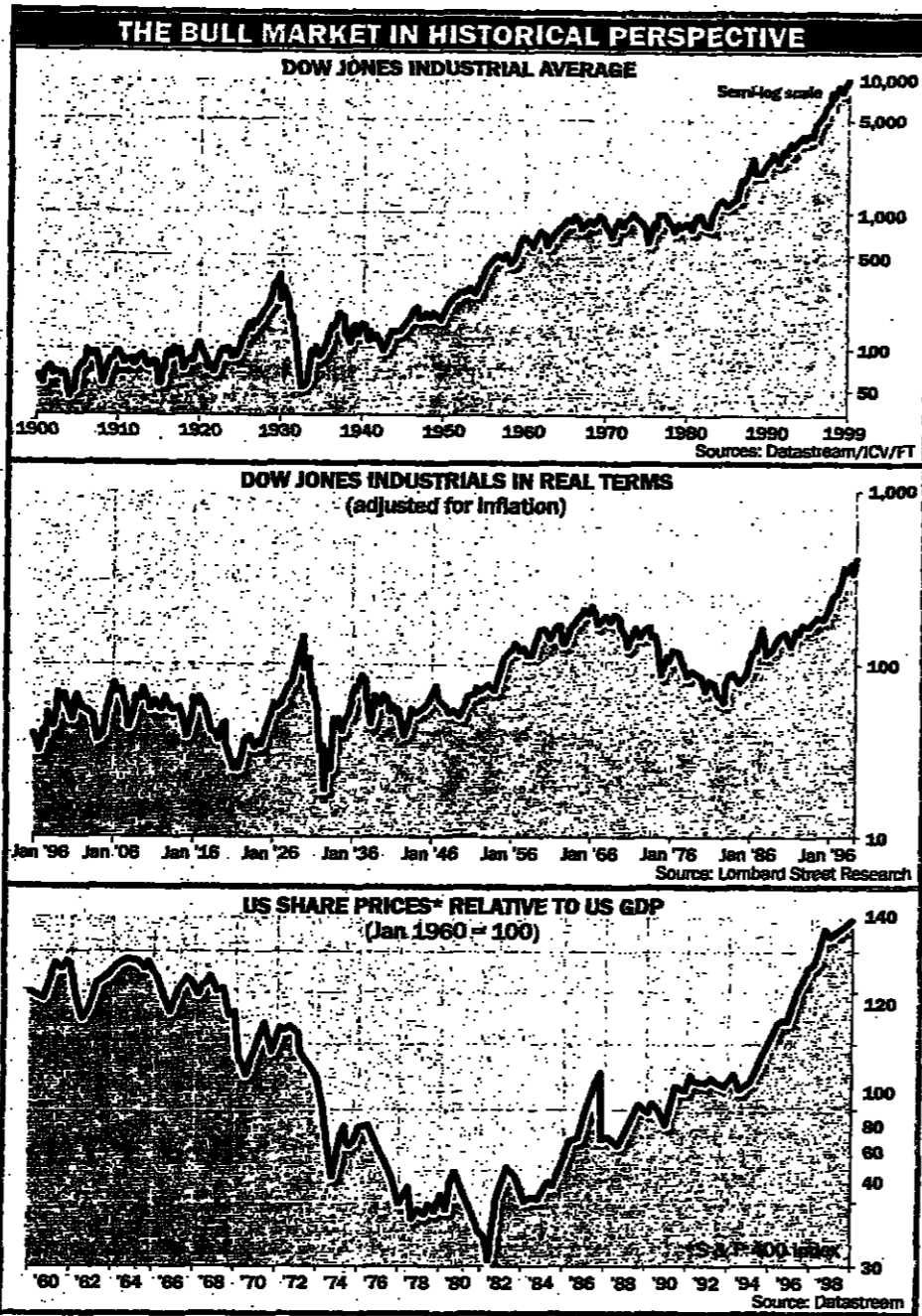
The question now is whether the spectacular performance of the American economy (which three months ago was thought by most of the so-called experts to be on the verge of a slowdown or even a depression) will vindicate the optimists yet again. My hunch is "yes, but only in the short term".

The bull market will probably go even higher in the next month or two. Wall Street could easily gain another 10 per cent or so in response to three factors.

As American companies start announcing their quarterly results in early April, the bearish analysts and investors who had expected disastrous consequences for corporate America from last year's Asian and Russian financial crises will finally be forced to throw in the towel. The fact is that, the global financial crisis was never going to be more than a pinprick for American companies as long as the Federal Reserve and the Clinton administration stuck firmly to monetary and fiscal policies that sustained demand.

The second big factor that could sustain the bull market in the short term is simply the weight of money still waiting on the sidelines in the hope of finding a better opportunity to buy American shares at a "more reasonable" price.

American individual investors are still pouring unprecedented sums of money into their personal pension plans (belying the nonsensical statistics which claim to show that Americans have forgotten how to save) — and much of this money is still waiting to be allocated to shares.



An even more important bullish factor is the misfortune and incompetence of so many professional investors — especially the hapless British fund managers based in the City of London — who have consistently failed to understand the forces driving the American market and have consequently missed out on the greatest financial event of their careers.

Little by little, these intrinsically "perma-bears" are being forced to admit their mistake and to start buying shares on Wall Street. As these bearish foreign fund managers capitulate and buy shares on Wall Street almost regardless of price, the US stock market may be driven even higher in the kind of speculative climax that typically characterises the final phase of a great bull market.

The third, and most important positive factor, is that, while share prices on Wall Street are certainly expensive by historic standards, they are not yet as wildly "overvalued" as many investors believe. Internet, computer and telecommunications stocks are unquestionably in a bubble. Today's arguments about Internet valuations are identical to those heard in the tulip mania and in Japan,

during the bubble economy of the late Eighties. Companies such as Amazon.com, Dell, Yahoo! and AOL have no proprietary technologies, operate in markets with very low barriers to entry and enjoy only marginal brand loyalty. Just as there is no rational limit to their valuation on the way up, there will be no rational floor to how far they can fall on the way down.

Moving beyond the technology sector, however, the claims about a Wall Street bubble, so popular among the wisecracks in the City of London, are much less persuasive. For top quality businesses with good long-term growth prospects, the Dow's present valuation of 25.3 times last year's earnings, or 21.4 times average earnings estimates for 1999, is high by historic standards, but not completely unreasonable, especially if US Treasury bonds, the main alternative investment, continue to yield only 5 per cent or so.

This also becomes clear if Wall Street's present level is considered from a long-term historical perspective. While it may seem ridiculous that stock market prices have increased tenfold since 1982,

when the Dow was only at 1,000, the fact is that the great bull market of the past 17 years was not all that unusual by historic standards. In fact, if we look back to the day when the Dow first reached 1,000, which was January 18, 1966, it becomes clear that the tenfold increase in prices on Wall Street has really been achieved over 33 years, not 17. That amounts to a compound annual increase of only 7.2 per cent, less than 2.5 per cent above the average rate of inflation in that period.

The second chart, derived from a study by Alex Skinner of Lombard Street Research, offers the correct perspective. This shows that the Dow, when adjusted for inflation, has only just reached the top of a channel rising at a rate of 2.1 per cent, well below the US economy's average real growth rate of 3.1 per cent since 1966.

My third chart, which shows a broader measure of stock market performance, the S&P 400 Industrials index, shows that this broader range of companies has advanced a little faster than the US economy. But even on this calculation, the present level of the market is only 20 or 30 per cent higher than its typical level in the early 1960s. US

shares are certainly expensive, but they are still nowhere near the speculative extremes reached, for instance, in Japan ten years ago.

Why, then, the popular misconception that the stock market is now at some completely unprecedented speculative extreme? The best explanation is simply that the 33-year period since the Dow's last true peak in 1966 has been divided into two very different halves. In the first 16 years, from 1966 until 1982, stock market investors suffered almost continuous losses in a savage bear market, which, when adjusted for inflation, was almost as bad as the crash of 1929-1933. The following 17 years were, by contrast, a period of steady recovery. And the point has now been reached where the market has returned, in real terms to around the trend that had previously been touched in the peaks of 1906, 1929 and 1966.

That, of course, can hardly be construed as good news for investors. Each of those peaks was followed by a stock market fall of 25 per cent or more, followed by a long period of directionless trading in which values were gradually whittled away by inflation. Could the same thing happen now?

There is obviously nothing pre-ordained about the trend lines drawn in the second chart or about the valuations relative to GDP shown in the third. There is no reason, in principle, why share prices should not rise permanently above the sort of valuations that have prevailed for the past 100 years. What cannot be disputed is that Wall Street has now completed its recovery from the troughs of the 1970s and 1980s. In this sense the "easy" part of the bull market is clearly behind. And history, which remains our only real guide to the future, suggests that shares are almost certain to suffer a serious setback, probably taking them back towards the middle of the channel in which they have traded for the past century.

In sum, it remains quite likely that share prices will keep rising in the short term. But the higher they move, the further they will eventually fall. It is worth recalling the health warning at the bottom of most financial advertisements: "Shares should be seen as a long-term investment and not as a short-term speculation."

In the present circumstances this view should be exactly reversed: buying shares at these levels may pay off as a short-term speculation, but they should not be viewed as a long-term investment. Shares are now so expensive that, even though further large short-term gains are possible, they are unlikely to be sustained. Shares bought at these exalted levels may perform not much better in the years ahead than they did in the decades that followed the Dow reaching 100 in 1906 and 1,000 in 1966. That cautionary message should be remembered, even if Wall Street races past the Dow 10,000 milestone.

Finding the right formula for branding fast cars



JASON NISSE

Ferrari is one. McLaren has made a half-hearted attempt to become one. Duesenberg has a stated objective of developing one. Now Williams has decided that it is ready to make itself one. What are they? Motor racing brands.

This week Williams — one of the most successful Formula One teams of the modern era, having won nine world constructors' championships — will relaunch itself as Williams F1. This might seem like a logical rebranding, but it is a massive change of emphasis for the team run by Sir Frank Williams and Patrick Head.

Until now Williams has called itself Williams Grand Prix Engineering, reflecting the team history, starting with a group of oily ragged mechanics in the 1970s. The decision to drop the word "engineering" from the brand followed a great deal of soul searching within Williams, and Jim Wright, head of marketing at Williams, said that there was a great deal of concern at how this would go down among the engineers, who make up the vast majority of Williams's 230 employees.

However, it was explained to them that the European ban on tobacco advertising was bound to hit Williams's revenues. Just under half of Williams's sponsorship income comes from Rothmans, its lead sponsor, which chooses to push Winfield, its subsidiary cigarette brand, through the sponsorship.

Two changes will hit this. Firstly, the ban on tobacco advertising — which will affect Formula One during the 2003 season. Secondly, Rothmans is in the process of merging with BAT, which owns its own Formula One team, British American Racing. The cost of BAT will no doubt have an impact on how much the combined BAT/Rothmans would be willing to target at Williams.

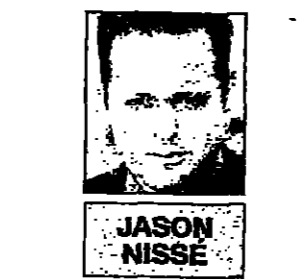
Williams reckons it can find a non-tobacco sponsor to replace Winfield/Rothmans. However, as quite a few other teams with tobacco sponsors — including McLaren, Jordan and Benetton — are pursuing similar aims and some top teams — such as Arrows — are finding it difficult securing a sponsor even for this season.

This is one of the reasons why Williams has decided it needs a brand. It feels that it should start generating other sources of income as money is the fuel for Formula One success these days.

The new brand and logo has been developed for Williams by Corporate Edge, those design consultants who brought us the PowerGen symbol of what looks like a woman holding a piece of plutonium, the CGU brand created when Commercial Union merged with General Accident, and Egg which, love it or hate it, is one of the most successful financial brand launches in recent history.

Chris Wood, the director of Corporate Edge who is working with Williams, believes that the Williams brand has certain "core values" that can be used for products other than racing cars. These include dedication, innovation, flair, integrity and fun.

The sort of products Mr Wood believes could be brand-



ed Williams include high-performance motor products — oil in particular — electronic products — such as hi-fi, mobile phones and laptop computers — watches and clothes. Unlike McLaren, which has developed a sportscar and a hi-fi for the super-rich consumer (and received some bad publicity when one of its tycoon customers died when he crashed his McLaren), Williams

sees its product range going more towards the mid-market.

Williams's name has been used outside the industry just once before. When Renault made engines for Williams it brought out a Renault Clio Williams, which proved highly popular but was discontinued when Renault pulled out of Formula One. BMW will be

supplying engines for Williams from next season. As BMW already has two performance car brands — the M series and the Alpina joint venture — it will not be launching a BMW Williams. This probably makes it easier for Williams to develop its brand independently. Expect products in the shops before the end of the season.

On the subject of BMW, its financial services arm has been pretty active in the sponsorship of contemporary art. The business was launched as a stand-alone operation only two years ago. Petra Kemp, its chief executive, thought a good way of raising its profile was to back some fairly controversial exhibitions, such as the Piero Manzoni at the Serpentine Gallery, the centrepiece of which was a series of tins containing faeces.

It has now signed a new deal with the National Galleries of Scotland in which it is supporting the new Dean Gallery in Edinburgh. It is also providing a bus shuttle service from the centre of Edinburgh to the Dean. Just one problem. BMW doesn't make buses.

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"I thought it was just the French who are trying to buy Gucci"

DOMINIC WALSH

Unholy vision

THE decision of the former butler Michael Hardern to swap his job as carpetbagger for a one-man campaign to restore the Holy Roman Empire should prove of interest to the Hapsburg family. According to one of my more scholarly colleagues, the Hapsburgs can lay direct claim to the sadly defunct title of Holy Roman Emperor.

These days the family is busy expounding its vision of Europe in Strasbourg. The 86-year-old Otto Von Hapsburg — the son of the last Austrian Emperor — has long been an MEP for the Bavarian Christian Social Union. Unfortunately, his position appears to be under threat after comments likening critics of the family's political ambitions to Hitler.

However, the family torch will continue to be borne by his son Karl, an MEP for the Austrian People's Party, while his daughter, Walpurga Hapsburg-Douglas, is thinking of running in Sweden. All three are heavily involved with the Paneuropa Movement, which officially aims to promote European unity, although cynics chide it has far more to do with the restoration of the Hapsburgs.

Sadly for Mr Hardern, it again looks as if his plans are going to be blocked by long-established vested interests.

dominic.walsh@the-times.co.uk

LEAFING through the Chesterfield Properties circular to shareholders I am saddened to see that the company has headquarters in Mayfair and has no properties in Chesterfield. This, of course, is a fine tradition in the property sector. Derwent Valley Holdings, for example, no longer owns the famous Derwent Valley railway or anything else in that part of the world, while Cardiff Properties, which is based in Surrey, owns nothing in Wales.

Off piste

ST MORTIZ has been the spiritual home of winter sports ever since we Brits (of all people) invented them there in 1865. And for 101 of those 134 years the Badrutts family has been dispensing hospitality to the rich and famous. George Soros, Tina Turner, Ivana Trump and Princess Caroline of Monaco are all regulars at the Badrutts Palace Hotel.

In recent months there have been persistent rumours that the current generation was planning to sell up. Although that is not, in fact, the case, it is true that the Badrutts are to take a back seat by handing over management of the 234-room property to Rosewood Hotels, which runs the Lanesborough in London and the Mansion on Turtle Creek in Dallas.

Flying feathers

MICHAEL Cannon knows a thing or two about pubs. Having bought his first hospitality at the age of 26 for £10,000, he went on to amass a not-so-small fortune from building Devonish and the Magic Pub Co into significant businesses then selling out at a huge profit to bigger rivals.

Last year, Cannon returned to the fray in some style, snapping up Morrells, the Oxford brewer, for £48 million, and paying a further £27 million or so acquiring Fuddruggers, the US hamburger chain.

And now I hear that he may have set his sights on Morland of Abingdon, purveyor of Old Speckled Hen and Riddles ales and reputedly a runner-up to Cannon in the bidding for Morrells.

It could just be tap room banter, but the word is that Cannon is pondering a plan to reverse Morrells into the quoted Morland to create a group with almost 500 pubs. As with Morrells, the Morland brewery would probably be closed and the brewing of its ales farmed out to a contract brewer.

Such a move would cause a furore among real ale enthusiasts — there is even an Old Speckled Hen Society — although there are vague whispers that Shepherd Neame, the Kent brewer and a favourite of the sand-wearing fraternity, could yet enter the bidding and save the day.

MY latest edition of Property Week informs me that Gordon Edington, group property director at BAA, has made it on to the shortlist of the Property Personality of the Year award. Yet, as a news report in the same magazine points out, Edington left the company earlier this month — one of some 50 casualties in the wake of BAA's decision to scrap a planned merger of its Lynton property development arm. A sympathy vote perhaps?



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The 20-year contract, signed yesterday, is the first success for Marien Foxon, the former Forte Hotels property director, who these days travels the world looking for deals for Maritz Wolff, the US investment firm that owns 50 per cent of Rosewood.

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"I thought it was just the French who are trying to buy Gucci"

ScotPower confirms plans for telecom flotation

By ROBERT LEA

SCOTTISHPower, the multi-utility, appeared to confirm yesterday that the expected £15 billion flotation of its Scottish Telecom subsidiary will take place this year.

Ian Russell, finance director, was reported by City analysts to have said that the flotation of Scottish Telecom was "on the table" on that it would probably take place in the fourth quarter, depending on market conditions.

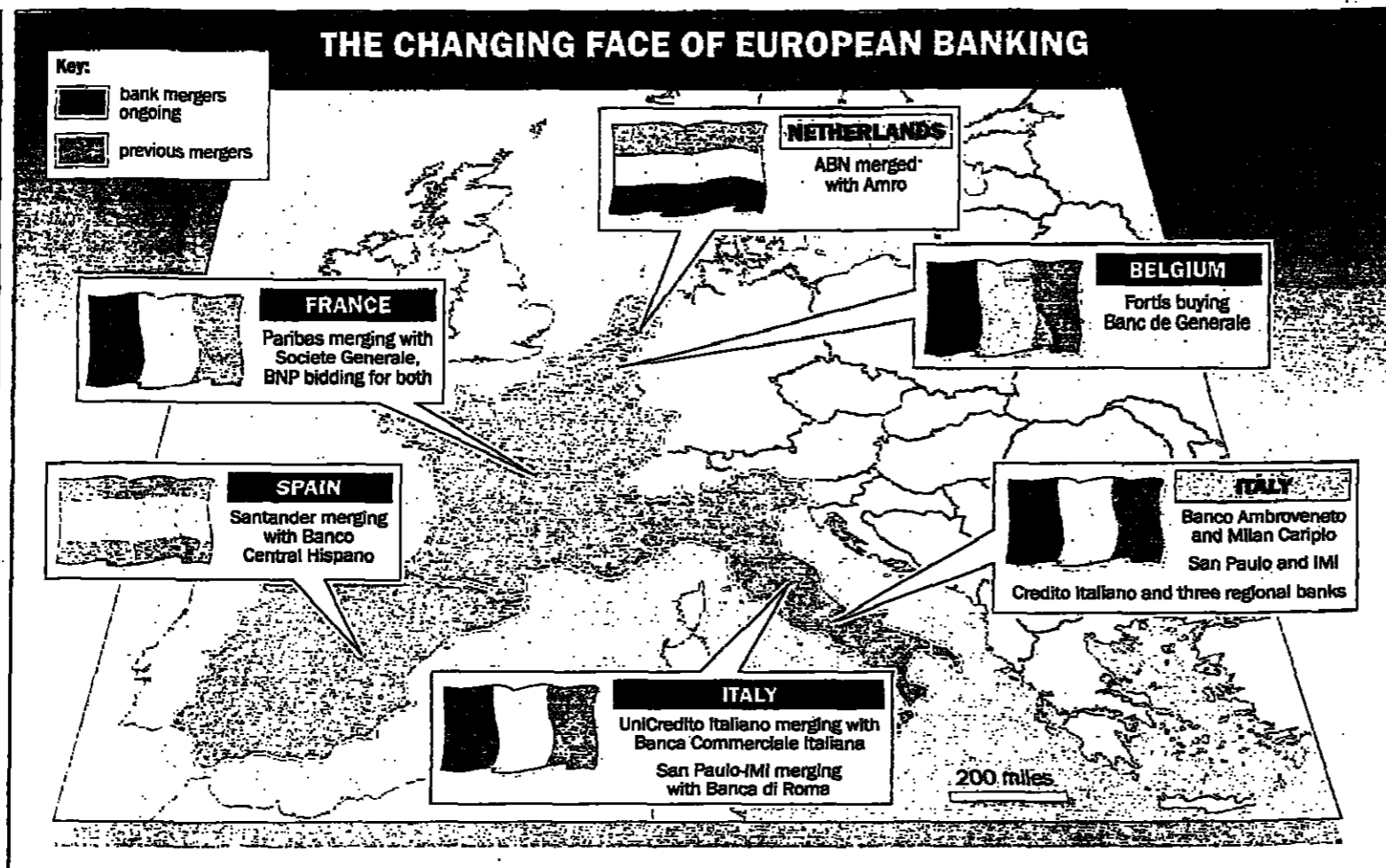
There had been intense speculation about a possible timescale for the flotation and sector watchers said that this was the first time that ScottishPower had provided the investment community with a window in which a possible flotation could occur.

ScottishPower last month admitted that it had hired Goldman Sachs, the Wall Street investment bank, to explore the options to optimise value for its shareholders from its investment in Scottish Telecom, whose business was significantly expanded last year through the acquisition of Demon, one of the UK's main Internet service providers.

Some analysts believe Scottish Telecom could be worth as much as £2 billion if the City's enthusiasm for Internet stocks continues. ScottishPower itself is valued at £6.7 billion.

Terms of the flotation are likely to be broadly similar in character to the relationship between National Grid and Energis, its telecoms offshoot.

Meanwhile, Shares of Scot.com rose 4p to 29p after the company confirmed that it had entered an agreement with Energis to enhance public access to its business subscribers. Scot.com estimated that the agreement could generate £21 million in additional revenue each year. Turnover was just over £15 million in the year to September 30.



Consolidation in the European banking sector appears to be far from finished, with analysts expecting further big mergers this year

Surprise mergers unveiled by Italian banking quartet

Caroline Merrell reports on the renewed outbreak of bid fever that has taken a grip on Europe

BID fever gripped the European banking sector yesterday as two mergers between four of Italy's biggest banks were revealed.

Unicredito Italiano is bidding for Banca Commerciale Italiana to create a £25 billion bank called Eurobanca, while San Paolo-IMI is planning to merge with Banca di Roma to create a £20 billion bank.

The two link-ups took the Italian banking sector by surprise, not least because until very recently, BCI had been poised to merge with Banca di Roma. The marriage between the two was called off amid much acrimony just two weeks ago.

The BCI/Banca di Roma deal was being negotiated by Mediobanca, a merchant bank dubbed the puppet master of corporate Italy. Shares in Mediobanca, headed by 92-year-old Enrico Cuccia, were temporarily suspended

yesterday after an initial 10 per cent gain.

Deals in Italy, it is said, are not carried out without Sir Cuccia's permission. But analysts said yesterday that the two banking mergers marked the beginning of the end of Mediobanca's influence on the Italian business scene. Some were claiming that Mediobanca itself could become the subject of a takeover bid.

The announcement of the two deals, which comes after an already completed round of banking consolidation in the country, sparked off a fresh bout of merger speculation in the European banking sector.

Already this year a mega-merger between Santander and BCH in Spain has been announced, while in France, a



Profumo: no conflict

three-way deal between Societa Generale, Paribas and BNL is currently on the table. In the UK, merger speculation has been less frenetic, though one analyst yesterday

reckoned that the arrival of Mike O'Neill from Bank of America to head up Barclays this week would be sure to reignite UK banking merger speculation.

Alessandro Profumo, the Unicredito Italiano managing director, said that its proposed union with BCI will not create conflicts of interest between rival shareholders of the two banks. "If the shareholders have an interest in increasing the value of their investment, I don't think they will have a conflict of interest," he said.

Shares in Banca di Roma soared more than 12 per cent at the open in Milan yesterday, while shares in BCI rose more than 10 per cent initially. Shares in the two predators fell, with San Paolo 4 per cent

down and Unicredito shares 5 per cent lower.

BCI has yet to reveal its position on Unicredito's bid. Meanwhile, Cesare Geronzi, Banca di Roma's chairman, said his bank would examine San Paolo's bid carefully. San Paolo said the merger with Roma, the largest bank in southern Italy, would "create a group of European dimensions able to exploit a substantial commercial presence in Italy based on strong geographical synergies".

Now analysts are looking to next wave of mergers with the likelihood, perhaps, of these being cross-border. Dresdner, from Germany, has been mentioned as a possible bidder in the French market — a move that the French Government is opposed to — while Germany's Commerzbank has been rumoured to be interested in buying up Flemings in the UK. The rumour yesterday was denied by the German bank.

Granada's Nile win

GRANADA'S Meridien Hotels chain is to take to the water after winning a contract to operate two luxury cruise boats (Dominic Walsh writes).

The company will operate the Nile cruisers Tut, which has 80 cabins, and the 48-cabin Aton under an agreement with the Egyptian Gen-

eral Authority for Tourism and Hotels.

Bernard Lambert, managing director of Meridien, said that the "sailing hotels" would be a useful adjunct to its hotels in Cairo as tourism in Egypt rose to previous levels. Terrorist attacks have badly affected its tourism industry.

Prestbury pays £40m for Butlers Wharf site

By ROBERT LEA

BUTLERS WHARF, Sir Terence Conran's ambitious office and residential development by Tower Bridge in London which went into receivership in 1990, has been bought by Prestbury Group, the property investment vehicle of Nick Leslau.

Prestbury announced yesterday that it is paying £40 million to KP, a Danish pension fund, for the main Butlers Wharf building, which not only houses 82 apartments but also Sir Terence's well known restaurants Pont de la Tour, Cantina and ChopHouse.

According to a spokesman for the group, the Prestbury plan is to go into Butlers Wharf, refurbish the flats, which are generally on short leases of between three months and two years, and lease them on. The property currently brings in net income of £2.3 million of which £620,000, rising soon to £825,000, comes from commercial elements.

Butlers Wharf, originally developed by Sir Terence, went into receivership at Christmas 1990 owing Midland Bank £50 million. The receivers sold on the main building to KP, which has other property interests along the Thames, for £30 million in the summer of 1992. Other property and land adjacent to Butlers Wharf was sold on by the receivers to Frogmore Estates, the London developer, three years later.

Prestbury was founded a couple of years ago by Mr Leslau, an associate of Nigel Wray, the property multi-millionaire.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Rugby poised to sell joinery business

RUGBY GROUP, the building materials company, confirmed yesterday that it is talking to "a number of parties" over the sale of its £300 million-rated joinery business. Rugby is planning to sell its joinery operations in order to concentrate on its main cement business. The company reported last month that it was in merger talks with Adelaide Brighton, the Australian cement group.

The joinery business, which includes Boulton & Paul, the company that Rugby acquired just two years ago, was the subject of a profits warning in November, when the company said that disappointing volumes were running well below expectations and that this meant that second-half profits were unlikely to come in above first-half levels. Rugby sold its Pioneer Plastics laminates business in the US for £105 million in December. Details of the joinery business sale are expected next week, when the company reports its full-year results.

Anglian shares surge

SHARES of Anglian Group, the conservatories and replacement windows and doors company, leaped 31p to 266p yesterday, after the company said that it would be making a special 50p a share payout as a result of its previously announced balance sheet reorganisation. The £44 million payout is funded from the group's cash reserves, which have grown from £40.6 million, reported at the interim stage. Eddie Boss, chief executive of Anglian, said that the full-year results should "exceed market expectations".

Ramco allays oil fears

RAMCO ENERGY, the oil independent in the Caspian and central and eastern Europe regions, said yesterday that its strong balance sheet and flexible operating policy should protect it from further turbulence in the oil markets. The company, which currently has £32 million of cash reserves, made a pre-tax loss of £465,000 in 1998 after £607,000 of redundancy costs against a profit of £484,000 the previous year. Losses per share came in at 3.35p against 1.49p per share earnings in 1997. The company is not paying a dividend.

Britannia builds

BRITANNIA GROUP, the Cheltenham-based construction company, said yesterday that the levels of business it was attracting remain satisfactory and ahead of more cautious industry forecasts. The company is increasing the total dividend for the year by 50 per cent to 2.1p after paying a final dividend of 1.5p. Earnings per share rose to 11p (3.2p) after the company reported pre-tax profits for 1998 of £3.16 million, a fourfold rise on 1997.

Asda Property ahead

ASDA PROPERTY struck a bullish note yesterday at its full-year results saying that 1999 had seen a marked return of confidence in the property market sparked by low interest rates and strong demand. The company made pre-tax profits of £11.3 million in 1998 against £9.6 million a year earlier and had earnings per share of 11.3p (9.6p). The final dividend of 2.3p lifted the total dividend to 3.25p (3p), while the company's net asset value stood at 221p a share, up from 188p in 1997.

Jarvis signs £12m deal

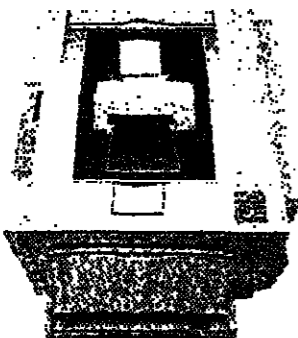
JARVIS, the road and rail maintenance group, has won a £12 million contract over three years to provide new roadside sign technology for the Highways Agency. The contract, through Jarvis's Techspan Systems subsidiary, is to install several hundred variable message signs for motorways and trunk roads that can change from displaying traffic signs to providing text messages in an effort to alleviate traffic congestion.

Birkby acquires sites

BIRKBY, the Birmingham-based company that rents out light industrial units, said yesterday that it had acquired an aggregate 11 workspace sites in recent weeks for a total of £5.9 million. Kim Taylor-Smith, the chief executive, also reported that demand for space remains buoyant and occupancy levels at both existing and new sites is up year on year.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Equities suffer modest falls

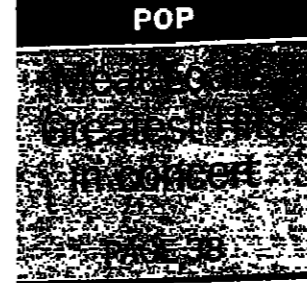
TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998/99	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	% Chg	P/E
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FILM
Clint Eastwood
has 12 hours
to save a life
PAGE 37

THE TIMES ARTS



Cooking up a Caribbean storm

THEATRE: Kylie Minogue was just one of the novelties in a Bajan *The Tempest*. Michael Owen reports

A busy roundabout in Bridgetown, Barbados, is the site of a powerful statue commemorating freedom from slavery on the island. It depicts a black man with his hands raised aloft in triumph, the newly broken chains still dangling from the manacles on his wrists.

This potent image has been drafted on to the end of a colourful new production of *The Tempest* as Caliban, played by the black actor Ade Sapara, gives the same signal of victory that recalls his opening words to Prospero: "This island's mine... that thou tak'st from me."

The fact that the show was playing just a couple of miles from the statue and that the audience was predominantly Bajan gave an added resonance to Shakespeare's most colonial of plays, and to the spirit of forgiveness and redemption that inhabits it. The production has been retitled *The Caribbean Tempest*, and what looked in prospect like a carnival romp through the masque and magic of the piece has turned into a creditable creation fuelled by its exotic location and cross-cultural participants.

The casting of Kylie Minogue as Miranda may have raised the odd knowing smile in anticipation, but she

conducted herself more than adequately. She even declined to sing, even though a number was specially written into the show for her.

Peter O'Toole, an even more unpredictable stellar presence, was originally engaged to play Prospero, but a clash of film dates prevented the charismatic Irishman from making the

"The salary for the actors comes mainly in the form of rum and sunshine"

trip, and David Calder was recruited for the role, fresh from his success in the same part with the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The production was the main event in this year's Virgin Atlantic Holders Season. This festival has been running in Barbados for the past six years, since John and Wendy Kidd agreed to turn over their 18th-century plantation estate to the event each March. Pavarotti and Lesley Garrett

have been among the visitors. Christopher Biggins has supervised previous Shakespearean offerings but this year, with the arrival of Virgin's new sponsorship, something more ambitious was sought.

The mastermind behind *The Caribbean Tempest* was Kit Hesketh-Harvey, of *Kit and the Widow* fame. He responded to a request from the Kidds to come up with a show that combined Bajan and international talent and settled on *The Tempest*. He filleted the text to use Shakespeare's lines as lyrics and brought in two local composers, Andre Daniel and Arturo Tappin, to provide a set of new songs as well as a background score.

The show starts with the genuine sound of voodoo drummers and includes calypso, rap and reggae rhythms. Ariel, arrayed like a brilliantly hued bird of paradise, is accompanied by a team of sprites whose skills incorporate stilt-walking, acrobatics and juggling, all fantastically caparisoned in huge feathered outfits. A children's chorus keeps threatening to steal the show and at the centre is a clutch of English actors including Roger Lloyd Pack, Alan Cox, Rupert Penry-Jones and Kevin Moore to provide the required ballast.

"It's not a terribly well-paid



Making a song and dance of Shakespeare on the island: Kylie Minogue (Miranda), Kevin Moore (Gonzalo) and Rupert Penry-Jones (Ferdinand)

job for them as the salary comes mainly in the form of rum and sunshine," says Hesketh-Harvey. The performances are staged in the open air with a raised lawn as a stage and palm trees used to support the lighting rigs. The island is full of noises, sounds and sweet airs is effectively

suggested by the background of crickets, frogs and birds. A couple of rum punches on the way into the 800-seater arena and the magic is beginning to have its effect even before Prospero starts to invoke his charms and spells.

But Hesketh-Harvey sees a more serious purpose afoot than providing some fanciful form of holiday culture. "There are so many reasons why the play should be revisited in a Caribbean location. Shakespeare was writing at a time when seafarers were returning from the West Indies with tales of shipwrecks and cannibals. Bajan English is nearer to Elizabethan English than the way we speak today. Because of the background of colonialism, *The Tempest* is the most studied play on the island and slavery is still a very raw memory. It speaks directly to people here and they know it line for line, as the audience reaction demonstrates.

"The fact that it was written as a masque to celebrate a wedding accounts for the liberal use of music, and we have taken advantage of that. I'm a little disappointed Kylie decided not to sing. We'd written *O Brave New World* as a solo for

her. She does join in a duet with Ferdinand briefly, just to support the actor playing him who feels a bit vocally challenged. But she was serious about playing this one straight and has turned out to be a model company member. She even helps to carry the props."

The production also gave Hesketh-Harvey the chance to explore voodoo traditions on the island. "The population here is mostly Christian and they are quite devout about it. But there is no doubt there is a good number who still believe in voodoo. I find it fascinating as I was born in Malawi and the sight of the witchdoctors coming to bless our house was the most terrifying experience I can remember."

A more significant visit occurred when officials from the Edinburgh Festival flew in to catch the last performances. "They are looking at us as a potential show for the Assembly Rooms. I still feel that the magical garden setting is such a star in its own right, but if we could find a way to suggest some of that in an indoor venue, then we could be on."

You've come a long way, lady

The name transcends music. Miriam Makeba's life has been so intricately entwined with her country's history that this rare London concert was bound to be touched with a special aura. Only Nina Simone could have arrived to a louder ovation. And just as that erratic lady sometimes gets by on charisma alone, so Makeba's vivacious personality made up for the longeurs in the music.

What we really came to hear, of course, were the adaptations of traditional tunes that the South African singer — now a stately 67 — made famous in her early years of exile. A handful duly arrived, but otherwise the format had moved on a long way since the Sixties.

There was scarcely a "click" to be heard for the first 45 minutes. Instead of the folk subtleties of her early bands, she fronted an anonymous pan-African group who relied on brusque amplification, a ponderous drummer and a sprinkling of soft rock clichés.

Feel-good melodies such as *Homeland* and *A Promise* proved every bit as anodyne as their titles suggested. Makeba's four backing singers added some evocative harmonies, but the lumpy rhythm section left little room for her own vocals to shine through. The

audience, it has to be said, did not seem to mind. A party is a party.

Still, it was heartening to see the liveliest bout of dancing in the aisles prompted by the vintage *Nomve* — performed after the interval in a brief jaunt down memory lane. That old faithful, *Wimowé*, cast its usual spell, while the ethereal *Sulazim* underlined Makeba's power as a balladeer. Though she spoke in little more than a whisper, her voice was still in imposing shape. The long, swooping lines never wavered once, though she made a point of disappearing from the Festival Hall stage at intervals, presumably to recharge her batteries.

Towards the end her musicians filled the gap with gruesome showboating solos which went down a storm. The encores of traditional a cappella chants were all the more effective for being so simple. Why bother to try to be a sub-Saharan Celine Dion when you can be Miriam Makeba?

CLIVE DAVIS

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A guide to the best classical CDs in conjunction with BBC Radio 3

DVORAK'S CELLO CONCERTO

Reviewed by Geoffrey Smith
ONE of the wonders of Dvorak's Cello Concerto is its symphonic scale, the subtle ways the soloist is woven into the orchestral texture. Previously, the cello had been thought incapable of projecting effectively through a large ensemble — Dvorak himself complained of the nasal quality of its upper register and its "mumbling" bass. But his superb sense of orchestral colour and relationships lets the instrument show the full range of its expressive power, while delivering an abundance of good tunes.

The piece has been recorded by all the great names of the cello. Pablo Casals's 1937 version is still remarkable for its relentless intensity. Another legendary figure, Gregor Piatigorsky, is more Slavic and rhapsodic, and less concerned with technical precision. Any soloist must strike a balance between the concerto's lyricism and energy. The romantic themes should not sacrifice momentum to indulgence, as they do in Lynn Harrell's version.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

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Similarly, Jacqueline du Pré, though giving a typically strong, ardent performance, overlooks Dvorak's request that the melody which begins the second movement not be played too slowly.

Throughout, the distinctive pleasure of the concerto is its mixture of emotions, alternating between tenderness and vivacity. Negotiating these changes is as much of a challenge as coping with the fiendish technical demands. Janos Starker plays with great fluency but perhaps not enough expression. Heinrich Schiff charts an attractive middle way, though he can become unduly aggressive in the robust passages.

Two masters stand out from the rest. Pierre Fournier and Mstislav Rostropovich both combine power, insight and eloquence in splendid virtuoso displays, and both are superbly accompanied by the Berlin Philharmonic, under George Szell and Herbert von Karajan respectively. If sorely pressed, I would give the nod to Rostropovich (DG 447413-2, £10.49) for the heroic breadth of his conception and his recording's sumptuous sound.

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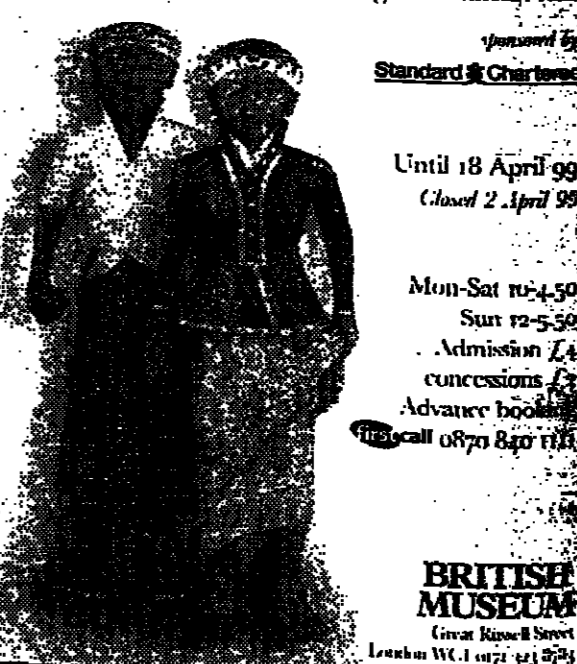
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مكتبة الأمل

CINEMA: Clint Eastwood has a double deadline to beat in *True Crime*, but somehow Giles Whittell can't get excited

Don't hold the front page

They like us! They really like us! They are the superheroes of film, the alpha males, and we are the scribblers who irritate them in the interview rooms of the global publicity machine. But when they come across us in a decent script — as hard-boiled rogues holding the line between freedom and injustice — they can't resist us.

Woodward and Bernstein weren't actually rogues. They were driven preppies on *The Washington Post*, but they brought down a dastardly President and that was good enough for Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman in *All the President's Men*. Michael Keaton, underappreciated in *The Paper*, was a controlled rogue and Hollywood's archetypal hot metal hero; he stood his pregnant wife up for a story, but the story was worth it and he made it to the birth.

In *True Crime* Clint Eastwood is an uncontrolled rogue. He takes the Keaton model and cranks up all the variables: drinking himself out of a big New York reporting job and wrecking his family with mindless womanising when he ends up at the cramped and parochial *Oakland Tribune*. He is also handed an extreme sort of journalistic challenge one fateful morning — a "human interest sidebar" about a black man on death row due to die in half a day despite his patently unsafe conviction.

Eastwood dislikes histrionics either in acting or directing. He does both here, and manages to create a surprisingly nuanced newspaperman despite the grim private life the script hands him, and the two killer deadlines. The result should be a killer film, but somehow it isn't. It has barely been going two minutes before Clint (as Steve Everett, looking every one of the actor's 69 years) is making the moves on a 23-year-old cub reporter in a beat-up bar. She wriggles away and is promptly killed in a car crash. After two more minutes Steve is in bed with his City editor's wife.

With another actor this slam-bang establishment of rogue credentials might be easily dismissed as cliché, but critics tend to cut Eastwood an unusual amount of slack because he remains one of the most watchable men in the business. He is also an ageing giant willing to mock his own mortality, while Redford and Pacino conspicuously refuse to.

Even so, his efforts to seem flawed are disingenuous. Early on his editor-in-chief calls his character "a real die-hard son of a bitch." This is not true. Janet Maslin in *The New York Times* called his performance his "most quietly poignant since *Perfect World*." Not really true either. The fact



is, seldom has an old lecher made braver adultery and the destruction of his family seem such innocent fun.

Eastwood has spent most of the 1990s masterfully adapting the uncompromising *Dirty Harry* heroism that made him a megastar to suit his advancing years. It began with the reformed gunman of *Unforgiven* who had an uncomfortable way of falling off his horse, and became explicit three years ago in *Absolute Power*, in which he directed himself as a cat burglar with a membership card for the American Association of Retired Persons.

But we should not be duped. Beneath the pleasant self-deprecation and the increasingly grandfatherly looks lurks the same white knight in shining armour. Anyone in doubt need only watch him in *True Crime*, tearing apart an entire death penalty conviction in an afternoon. We see him lining up the facts on quick visits to the crime scene and the chief prosecution witness. Then, in one of the film's best scenes, he goes to death row at San Quentin state prison to conduct a prearranged interview with the condemned man. On the way in a guard warns him that prisoners tend to lie, and Clint — sorry, Steve — shoots back: "Everyone lies, pal. I'm just here to write it down." The thrill the line imparts makes it clear this is just his new way of saying "Make my day."

Inside the prison, Eastwood has rendered his locations with a convincing mix of pathos and wry humour. The heavily black suburb of Richmond is one of the more godforsaken spots in Clintonian America, and he knows it well, having grown up just down the road. Inside, there are heartrending scenes as inmate Frank Beachum's final hours tick away and he copes with the remorseless logistics of state-sanctioned killing: the farewells, the final meal, the arrival of the priest.

But there is also a strong sense that the most horrific ritual in American life is being exploited for a couple of hours' entertainment. This queasy-making tone is partly justified by current events — the almost casual acceptance of the death penalty that last year brought an innocent man to within 48 hours of being executed in Illinois, and has probably killed others who were as innocent but not so lucky.

In the end, as Kenneth



America's favourite new movies: top, Clint Eastwood and Isiah Washington on death row in *True Crime*; above, Sandra Bullock and Ben Affleck talk weddings in *Forces of Nature*

Turan writes in the *Los Angeles Times*, this film is "caught between two stools, not involving enough emotionally to make up for its lack of overriding tension".

At the opposite end of the seriousness scale, the weekend's surprise box-office winner was a charming and unpredictable romance starring Ben Affleck and Sandra Bullock. *Forces of Nature* was rubbished in

some quarters as high-concept casting in search of a plot, and embraced in others as the perfect thinking person's sex comedy. In fact there isn't much sex, but there is a far more inventive performance than we had a right to expect from Bullock, and quirky direction from Brown Hughes (*Harriet and the Spy*) that suggests DreamWorks may at last be living up to its promise to mix

art with its commerce. The deadline here is marriage: Affleck plays a young groom in search of himself on his way south from New York to get hitched. The ending is as unsatisfactory as *True Crime*'s, but on the journey there the amiable hunk from *Good Will Hunting* is as continuously worth watching as Eastwood. It will be interesting to see if he still is in 40 years.

US WEEKEND BOX-OFFICE TAKINGS AND ANALYSIS

1	(4) <i>Forces of Nature</i> (DreamWorks)	\$13.9m/\$39.5m
2	(1) <i>American Pie</i> (Warner Bros)	\$11.9m/\$38.5m
3	(2) <i>True Crime</i> (Warner Bros)	\$5.3m
4	(5) <i>Baby Genies</i> (TriStar Pictures)	\$4.5m/\$55.8m
5	(3) <i>Cruel Intentions</i> (Columbia)	\$4.2m/\$23.4m
6	(6) <i>The King and I</i> (Warner Bros)	\$4.1m
7	(7) <i>The Bad News Bears</i> (MGM)	\$3.6m/\$7.1m
8	(4) <i>The Corruptor</i> (New Line)	\$3.0m/\$5.8m
9	(11) <i>Shakespeare in Love</i> (Miramax)	\$2.8m/\$68.9m
10	(8) <i>The Deep End of the Ocean</i> (Columbia)	\$2.7m/\$5.6m

© First amount is estimated weekend takings, March 19-21. Second amount is total takings to March 15. Figure in brackets indicates last week's position

© *Forces of Nature*, a screwball road comedy starring Sandra Bullock and Ben Affleck, came in at the No 1 slot in the American box office this week. Robert De Niro holds down the No 2 position with his Mafia comedy *American Pie*. Clint Eastwood's thriller *True Crime* is third.

Sublime introspection

As principal conductor of the Halle Orchestra in Manchester, Kent Nagano has conducted far less Bruckner than Mahler — presumably because he feels he has a closer temperamental affinity with the latter composer. Most of us do. But Bruckner too was capable of indulging in introspection and even, in spite of his faith in God and the Symphony, of feeling very sorry for himself. The third movement of the unfinished Ninth Symphony in D minor is a clear case of a regretful farewell and, as Nagano and

CONCERTS

the Halle confirmed in the Bridgewater Hall, a clear case also for illumination by Mahlerian hindsight.

If the upper strings were not always entirely together, in the technical sense, in defining the melodic line in that great slow movement, they were certainly together in their commitment

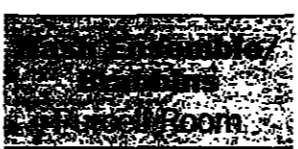
to realising its emotional implications. A conductor can go too far, of course, in emphasising the sighs in the wide intervals of the main theme and the pain in its chromatic inflections but this was something that, with his usual stylistic discrimination, Nagano avoided. At the same time, even so, he left no doubt as to the bereft mood which inspired it. Indeed, he was at his best here, securing the immediate response while sustaining the continuity and working towards an ending that — although, with the fourth movement already sketched, Bruckner never intended it as an ending — attains an area of E major serenity sublime remote from the D minor reality in which the work begins.

The first movement, too, gained something from an approach that, although not actually impatient, was more than just a matter of long-term restraint and a conviction that the building blocks will in due course fall into place. It was more spontaneous than that, melodically and texturally more indulgent. In the scherzo, though in this case with some loss of character, the anger of the outer sections was somehow reduced and the charm of the middle section much enhanced.

Since it was a Haydn performance that, among other things, secured Nagano's appointment to the Halle nine or ten years ago, it was interesting to hear him, as he approaches the end of his term in Manchester, conduct Haydn again in the Symphony No 102 in B flat. It might not have been as fresh an interpretation as that original one, but the work was well chosen as a partner to the Bruckner and most stylishly done.

GERALD LARNER

A power to surprise



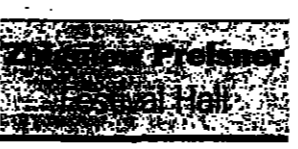
for the Nash Ensemble in 1997. Inspired by the art of Tom Phillips, the original work has been expanded to fit a scenario devised by the choreographer Mark Baldwin, who commissioned the piece for the Royal Ballet's *Dance Bites* tour. Testing virtuoso solo writing and cunning conceit never quite make up for the ultimate lack of substance in this frenetic passing show.

But at the beginning and end of the evening there was much consolation. After the Watkins came a small wonder from Mark-Anthony Turnage: a wake for the Nash's late cellist Christopher van Kampen, called *Cortège for Chris* and cast as a duet for clarinet (Richard Hosford) and cello (Paul Watkins), lulled by piano (Sheila Sutherland). And, as the grand finale, Jonathan Harvey's exuberant celebration of love, laughter and the human voice (soprano Valérie Anderson) in his own *Song Offerings*.

HILARY FINCH

Seduced by reel music

Here is the sound of a programme annotator getting horribly carried away. "Chord sequences as monolithic as a slab of dark chocolate; timbres as natural and unnatural as a hillside garden." Zbigniew Preisner can do that to a man's prose. You usually encounter his music on film soundtracks, peppering the cryptic allegories of his fellow Pole, Krzysztof Kieslowski. But the Festival Hall was jam-packed on Friday for Preisner's first large-scale piece for live performance, *Requiem For My Friend*. The friend was Kieslowski, who died in 1996. They had planned a music-drama spectacle about the meaning of life to be performed at the Acropolis: Kieslowski would be the director. Preisner's music be-



came instead his friend's memorial: over an hour of mournful fragments, divided into two parts, *Requiem and Life*, glued together with notes on organ pedal or strings, the melodic lines decorated with more minor thirds than is medically advisable for the ear to hear.

The *Requiem* has already made friends through a CD recorded in Warsaw Cathedral and the Emaus Church in Cracow. The Festival Hall acoustic recalls no cathedral, so reverberation was simulated through microphones. However, authenticity was better achieved by importing the orig-

inal Polish singers, musicians, and conductor Jack Kaspszyk. Star attraction of the sombre first part was the soprano Elżbieta Twardowska. Her voice dominated the most affecting segments, when Preisner's phrasings lodged themselves firmly in the mind. But the attractions dwindled in the second section, scored mostly for a 60-piece orchestra (the BBC Concert Orchestra) and a 40-piece choir (the Salisbury Festival Chorus).

The concert's second half consisted of expanded arrangements of music composed for Kieslowski's films, plus the waltzing title music for the BBC series *People's Century*. A scrappy sequence, this, but the audience clapped like mad.

GEOFF BROWN

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LAW

The barrister who had an instinct for fairness

Peter Duffy, QC, stood out for his essential decency in a profession with more than its fair share of cynical, unreasonable and selfish characters. His death earlier this month, at the appallingly premature age of 44 after a battle against cancer, has deprived the legal system of one of the most effective advocates for human rights. He leaves a wife and three young children.

Peter's advocacy had many admirable qualities. It was authoritative, being based on a complete command of international legal materials. It was balanced, avoiding hyperbole and responding to the strengths of competing arguments. It was sensitive to the concerns of his clients.

He was a formidable opponent, a valuable ally in court or in a conference, and a barrister on whose submissions judges knew they could rely, whether he was representing applicants or government departments.

In the past few years he appeared in

many leading human rights disputes. He acted for homosexual servicemen and women fighting their exclusion from the Armed Forces. He represented Diane Blood in the case about using the sperm of her dead husband. He spoke for sadomasochists, transsexuals and Gypsies in their respective disputes in the European Court of Human Rights. He was briefed for Amnesty in the Pinochet extradition case; and (three weeks before his death) he intervened in the House of Lords on behalf of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in relation to the scope of the Geneva Convention on Refugees. Opposing counsel, as well as judges, were educated by his submissions.

Nobody who was there will forget the force of his successful argument in the European Commission of Human Rights criticising the law that made it a criminal offence for 16 and 17-year-old homosexual males to have a sexual relationship with a consenting partner. It

was as a result of the commission's decision, accepting Peter's submissions, that the Government announced proposals (now before Parliament) to liberalise the law.

He will be particularly missed on May 18, when the European Court hears argument on whether the ban on homosexuals in the Armed Forces is a breach of the right to private life guaranteed by Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

What characterised his career and made him a model for all advocates was an instinct for fairness, or more accurately a distaste for unfairness. As he explained in his 1997 Stonewall Lecture, it is incumbent on all of us to treat other

people "with respect in accordance with the true understanding of the principles of equality". He gave freely of his time and skills to those who could not afford to pay fees — as well as earning large sums from wealthy clients who wanted to benefit from his expertise. He had, incidentally, an encyclopaedic knowledge of the hotels and restaurants in Strasbourg.

The loss to the legal system is especially significant as international human rights instruments — his area of expertise — become of central importance to the interpretation and application of domestic law.

The Human Rights Act 1998 will be

brought into force soon, probably next year. It will incorporate the European Convention into our law, so making relevant the decisions of the European Court and the judgments of constitutional courts of other jurisdictions. Barristers and judges will need all the guidance they can find on what are, to most of them, novel principles that are going to permeate all branches of our legal system, from criminal procedure to planning policy.

He not only understood, but believed in, the core values of the European Convention that occupied so much of his professional life. As the European Court has explained, a democratic society cannot exist without pluralism and tolerance, the rule of law, access to the courts and freedom of political debate. The convention is designed to guarantee rights that are not theoretical, but practical and effective. A fair balance must be struck between

the rights of the individual and the demands of the general interests of the community.

The principle of proportionality requires a reasonable relationship to be maintained between the means employed by the State and the legitimate objectives that it is pursuing.

In arguing for, and living by, these values, Peter was a credit to the Bar. A busy and ambitious profession sometimes forgets that there are greater tragedies than having your submissions rejected by the judge, or being told that a solicitor will not agree as high a brief fee as you had hoped to receive. It is a mark of the considerable respect and affection for Peter Duffy, QC, and the widespread recognition of what the legal system still had to learn from him, that his death occasioned so strong a sense of loss by so many.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



David Pannick QC

Why children under 14 should not be tried as adults

The Strasbourg ruling on the Bulger case highlights the need to reform juvenile sentencing, says Allan Levy

How should society deal with children who kill? Last week's ruling by the European Commission of Human Rights in the case of Robert Thompson and Jon Venables — now going to the European Court of Human Rights — is likely to lead eventually to a radical reconsideration by the Government of the way we sentence children in the criminal courts.

And it is almost certain that the Home Secretary will be forced to abandon his role in the sentencing process. The hanging of children who kill was abolished by the Children Act of 1998, which brought in the sentence of detention during Her Majesty's pleasure.

Since then, we seem to have lost our way. The chief issues raised at Strasbourg concern the procedure adopted at the trial of the two boys, which was held in an adult court — Preston Crown Court — in November 1993; the nature of the sentences imposed; the role played by the Home Secretary in fixing the "tariff" part of the sentences (for punishment and deterrence); and the availability of review procedures concerning the continuation of their detention.

The majority view of the European Commission of Human Rights, which carried out a sifting process in respect of the boys' applications, was

that the trial was unfair — and therefore in breach of Article 6 of the Convention — because the boys, then aged 11, were subjected to a "severely intimidating procedure" by the public trial with attendant publicity. Their ability to participate was seriously affected. The commission also criticised the sentencing procedure. It found that, after the conviction, the fixing of the tariff was a sentencing exercise and that the Home Secretary, as a politician, could not be regarded as an "independent and impartial tribunal" to comply with Article 6.

Lastly, a breach of Article 5 was found in that in the five years since the indeterminate sentences were passed, no review of the lawfulness of the detention by a judicial body was available.

The one British judge, Mr Justice Bristow (sitting with 14 other commission judges), voted with the majority in favour of the boys on each of the issues. He accepted that with the constraints of the criminal trial in public, all possible steps were taken by the trial judge in Preston to make allowances for the fact that the two defendants were only 11.

But Mr Justice Bristow's view

was that a fair trial within the meaning of Article 6 was inconsistent with subjecting a child to "the full rigours of an adult, public trial".

This trend within the past few years for children to be treated as adults in some parts of the criminal justice system is disturbing. The Howard League for Penal Reform, in its report

Protecting Children, published last week, notes that the thrust of many recent legislative changes regarding children negates their immaturity and considers them as if they were adults.

The removal, for example, of the protection given by the doctrine of *doli incapax* for children aged between 10 and 14 (the prosecution formerly had to prove not only the offence alleged but also that a child understood that what he or she had done was seriously wrong) puts the child from the age of 10 in the same position as an adult in respect of criminal intent and understanding.

Although Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has said that there will be no changes in the present system and that the Government will argue matters fully in the forthcoming



European Court of Human Rights hearing, it is time to consider reforms that are long overdue.

The 1996 Justice Report *Children and Homicide* recommended that those under the age of 14 accused of homicide (an offence to cover both murder and manslaughter) or other serious offences should be tried in private to protect their identities and that only the facts of the case and, where there was a conviction, the sentences, should be made public.

The cases should be heard by a specially convened panel of a judge and two magistrates who have relevant experience and training. The court should have a wide sentencing discretion. A more fundamental reform would be to raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years to bring it into line with that of most other European countries.

● The author is a QC and specialises in child and human rights law. E-mail: lawpage@the-times.co.uk

Treating children as adults is a disturbing trend

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AS the Government's Access to Justice Bill enters the Commons today, MPs are mounting a campaign led by the solicitor Andrew Dismore, MP, to scrap the institution of Queen's Counsel. They want to amend the Bill to abolish what they see as an anachronistic distinction which serves to give lawyers more money. The campaign by Mr Dismore has infuriated QCs, many of whom he instructed when in practice. Andrew Goodman, secretary of the Professional Negligence Bar Association, says that he must have "stiffed his concerns" when, as a solicitor, he sought the best QCs to present his clients' cases.

MEANWHILE, Geoff Hoon, the Minister of State at the Lord Chancellor's Department, has released figures which support the long-held belief that many

Legal DIARY

QCs earn too much in private practice to consider becoming judges. Of the 31 QCs asked by the Lord Chancellor's Department if they would accept an appointment to the High Court Bench over the past four years, 20 rejected the offer. The figures, in response to a question from Mr Dismore, also show the practice of making informal approaches to be in decline since the decision in 1997 by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, to advertise all High Court vacancies. While 14 silks were approached in 1996, just two were sounded out last year.

THE Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, may take some comfort from the law lords' ruling tomorrow on the General Pinochet extradition case. The seven law lords are expected to

uphold his reasoning on what crimes are extraditable in law, and to exclude those crimes before 1988. Even though they will rule he must be extradited on remaining crimes, the case to send him for trial to Spain is much weakened.

Clyde & Co, who specialise in shipping and aviation, is in danger of losing one of its senior partners in a most unusual way. Dr Peter Felter, the head of the firm's energy group, is spearheading a bid to oust the management at the oil company Premier. In a letter to its shareholders he claims it is underperforming and calls on them to replace the existing management with him and his team. "I have assembled a management team with outstanding credentials for operating in the international energy area," says Dr Felter, who wants to be chief executive.

Last chance to submit entries to the Times/Justice Awards, page 41.

QUEEN'S COUNSEL

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The risk that faces frontline lawyers

The danger for those working on human rights is becoming linked to a cause, says Frances Gibb

There was widespread condemnation last week of the murder of Rosemary Nelson as a direct result of her professional work as a defence lawyer for republicans in Northern Ireland. Mrs Nelson had regularly received death threats and reported them to the authorities; such threats are commonplace for lawyers who work at the front line of sensitive human rights and political cases. It is work that requires a particular brand of courage: in a report last year, the United Nations said only some 20 of Ulster's 1,400 solicitors would routinely defend clients in "politically sensitive" cases. Last week they were under fire. Peter Madden, a Belfast human rights lawyer now representing families in the Bloody Sunday inquiry, says Mrs Nelson's death was an outrage. "It's also very sad when you think that she was the only woman in Lurgan to open her own practice, and then to balance her work with home and young children." He, and groups such as the British-Irish Rights Watch, argue that it is hard for lawyers in such circumstances to obtain protection. Mrs Nelson had received at least 10 death threats from the RUC, then she was killed by loyalists. In such cases lawyers have no confidence in seeking protection from the RUC. A similar fate befell Mr Madden's professional partner, Patrick Finucane, murdered ten years ago in front of his family. Such acts aim to pre-

vent people who have suffered human rights abuses from getting the legal help they need, Mr Madden says.

There is heightened anxiety, but lawyers will carry on. Such work means extra precautions and vigilance. The legal profession is not routinely associated with danger. Criminal lawyers handling cases of big-league organised crime are not unused to threats; even divorce lawyers sometimes receive aggressive and abusive letters from the spouse of their client. But few expect to put their lives on the line for their work.

Alan Burnside, the spokesman for the Law Society in Northern Ireland, which represents some 480 law firms, says the dangers must not be exaggerated. "Solicitors are not crouching behind their desks here. It is a very small number of firms doing this kind of work. The murder of Mrs Nelson was not an attack on the legal profession so much as an attempt to destabilise the peace process."

Worldwide though, risks for lawyers are rising. A report in 1997 covering 49 countries carried out by the International Commission of Jurists said that the year before those countries, 26 lawyers were killed, 97 suffered prosecution, arrest, detention or torture, two disappeared and 324 were physically attacked and 324 professionally obstructed. The International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute, which this year has intervened with national leaders on be-



Rosemary Nelson: killed in a bomb attack

half of mistreated lawyers in 27 countries, reports that attacks on judges and lawyers have doubled in the past three years.

It has had some success: the case against the Kenyan lawyer Juma Ki-plenge was withdrawn recently, and three people have been detained on charges of murdering the Colombian lawyer Eduardo Umaña Mendoza. But its work goes on. It has just protested to Moltar Abdullah, Attorney-General of Malaysia, over the jail sentence faced by the lawyer Zainur Zakaria, representing Anwar Ibrahim. This week a letter went

to President Demirel of Turkey over the treatment of lawyers acting for Abdullah Ocalan.

Peter Goldsmith, QC, the institute's co-chairman, says dangers arise when people identify a lawyer with his client's cause. "Lawyers in many parts of the world are in the front line in upholding civil liberties. Sometimes government agencies themselves are involved. We tend to take it for granted that you can carry on your practice without interference being bugged, having files stolen, being locked up for contempt of court, not subject to death threats. But these are real pressures which some lawyers work under."

Freedom's flame flickers

Corpus Juris threatens our liberty, argues Michael Shrimpton

After the resignations at the European Commission last week, there will be a fresh drive to combat fraud within the European Union's administrative machine and beyond. These Commission proposals, known as Corpus Juris, aim to rationalise procedures for prosecuting fraud within the EU. But the document, now likely to be seized on as one answer to the Commission's problems, is more than this. It is a blueprint for rationalising Europe's criminal laws.

What lies behind it? In line with the Treaty of Rome, the EU has edged towards becoming a federal state. Community law was established as federal (in the sense that the laws of the states can be overruled) by the European Court of Justice in a series of rulings starting in the early Sixties and accelerated in the late Eighties and early Nineties.

This drive to convert a federal system into a federal state has a legal obstacle. The EU has two fundamentally incompatible legal systems, the inquisitorial and the adversarial. No state has ever succeeded with such a dichotomy of legal procedure. The UK has two systems, but the Scottish legal system could scarcely be described as inquisitorial and provides for trial by jury. With only two adversarial states (the UK and Ireland) it was not hard to see which would lose out when the choice came to be

made for a European legal system. While economic and monetary union drives the process of economic and political integration, the Community treaties do not provide a similar mechanism for "harmonisation" of legal systems. Community law is not organic but superimposed, with varying degrees of success. In the UK it is not even entrenched, since the European Communities Act 1972 can be repealed.

The problem has been recognised by

Article 18 of Corpus Juris provides that "the territory of the member states of the Union constitutes a single legal area".

It is proposed to appoint a European Director of Public Prosecution, and European delegated public prosecutors in each state, who may exercise their powers beyond state borders. The Euro DPP may "request" detention without trial for up to six months, renewable for three months at a time, with no maximum limit. Detention across borders is permitted and European arrest warrants would be valid across the entire EU. Whether the authors of Corpus Juris understood the immense constitutional implications for the UK of their proposals is doubtful, but perhaps the Europeans have never understood our attachment to liberty and the rule of law.

Article 26 Indent 1 is perhaps the most controversial, excluding "simple jurors or lay magistrates". Trial by jury would be shut out entirely, as would habeas corpus. As for fraud, Corpus Juris could be brought in by majority voting under Article 209a (280) of the Treaty of Rome as amended by Amsterdam. Britain believes that it has a veto but that view is not shared. If the lamp which shows that freedom lives is not yet extinguished, it is flickering.

● The author is a barrister and specialist in constitutional and administrative law.

Trial by jury would be shut out entirely, as would habeas corpus

both the European Parliament and the EC. In 1995 a directorate of the EC set up the European Legal Area Project, the same directorate that was implicated in the Euro-sleaze scandal. The project led to a seminar at San Sebastian in Spain on April 17 and 18, 1997, from which emerged Corpus Juris. What would it do? First, it is true that it would "harmonise" criminal prosecutions for fraud against Community funds. But as the documentation makes clear, Corpus Juris has been conceived as "the embryo of a future European Criminal Code". José María Gil-Robles, the President of the European Parliament, has talked of the creation of "a common European judi-

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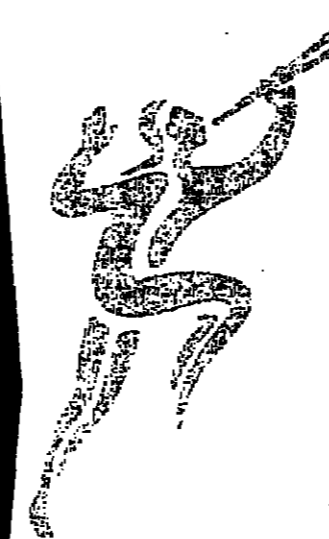
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The City office of this leading national firm has openings for 4 construction lawyers, one at 0-2 years' experience and one at 5-5 years' experience. There is fantastic quality work on offer and the opportunity to become involved in projects with the firm's other UK offices. More senior candidates should have experience of both construction and contentious work. Outstanding prospects if you have business acumen and good team skills. (Ref. 26084)

EMPLOYMENT

An employment specialist with experience of both non-contentious and contentious work is sought by this medium-sized firm. With a "high-tech" client base this firm provides an interesting and dynamic and innovative service. If you have between 2 and 4 years' experience of conducting your own advocacy and enjoy working with challenging clients you will be ideally placed to exploit this opportunity. (Ref. 26213)

CORPORATE TAX

The City office of this premier national firm has a strong corporate client base and is now seeking to strengthen its corporate tax capability with the appointment of a lawyer with up to 3 years' corporate tax experience. You will work closely with all departments in the firm as well as being encouraged to get involved in marketing initiatives. (Ref. 26213)

TO £25,000

FINANCE

This pre-eminent City firm is seeking to build on its well established finance practice which is fast developing in Italy. Work includes leveraged buy-outs, securitisations, structured lending and project finance. You will have up to 6 years' experience of financing work in a City firm and be a fluent Italian speaker. Opportunities to travel and work in Italy are also on offer. (Ref. 25104)

TO £70,000

PLANNING

This major City firm is looking to recruit 2 planning lawyers of exceptional ability, with between 2 and 5 years' experience. Serving an enviable client portfolio, the successful candidates will be encouraged to gain hands-on experience and become key players within the department. As part of this winning team you will be able to steer your career onto the fast track to success. (Ref. 26104)

TO £60,000

CORPORATE PSL

This is not a "soft option". This leading international firm, which has one of the most sophisticated professional resource groups in the City, is looking for a self-motivated, motivated individual with between 2 and 4 years' experience of public company and corporate finance work. You will be able to apply your practical experience in a challenging and exciting role and you will also be part of an organised and highly regulated team of PSLs at the firm. (Ref. 25025)

TO £60,000

TRADE MARKS

This niche IP practice is looking to consolidate its already very successful practice by bringing on board a specialist trade marks lawyer. With a portfolio of household names as clients you can be assured of the highest quality work. You will need to have between 2 and 5 years' experience of trade marks work, a strong academic background and a positive self-motivated attitude to join the best in the business. (Ref. 26082)

TO £45,000

CORPORATE

Top quality clients, fantastic training and a very competitive remuneration package are all on offer at this medium-sized City firm. With a friendly, balanced working environment and a dynamic and entrepreneurial outlook this firm is dedicated to investing in you. If you have up to 1 year's experience and enthusiasm to making your career in corporate law this is the job for you. (Ref. 26174)

TO £56,000

For further information on private practice vacancies please contact Yvonne Smyth or Fiona Bennett (both qualified lawyers) on 0171 523 1240 (01923 855734 evenings/weekends). Fax 0171 523 3839. E-mail yvonne.smyth@carabgroup.com. Alternatively please write to them at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PL.

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Transactional Lawyer - London

You will play a broadly based role, advising on all aspects of our business particularly focusing on project development, mergers & acquisitions and energy industry financing transactions.

You will have gained between 4 and 8 years' transactional experience in a major City law firm and will have a corporate/commercial or finance background (no energy experience is necessary).

Corporate/Commercial Lawyer - Teesside

Ideally with 4-6 years' experience and the ability to operate and negotiate at senior board level, you will have broad ranging corporate and commercial contracts experience gained in a major law firm or in-house organisation of similar standing. Project finance experience would be useful but not essential. Again previous energy experience is not a prerequisite.

For both the above roles you will need to be a hardened negotiator, proactive, imaginative and capable of working closely with senior management in one of the most entrepreneurial companies in our sector.

In return you will be offered excellent career opportunities and an outstanding salary, bonus and benefits package.

For further information, in complete confidence, in relation to the London position please contact Jane Maule or Greg Atkinson on 0171-405 6082 (0181 442 0941 evenings/weekends) and in relation to the Teesside position Graham Munley on 0123 242 8700 (0113 281 9075 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, email jane@qdggroup.co.uk, greg@qdggroup.co.uk, graham@qdggroup.co.uk

QD In-House Legal
37-41 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4JH
Tel: 0171 405 6082
Confidential fax: 0171 831 8394

3rd Floor, Royal Exchange House
Boar Lane, Leeds LS1 5NS
Tel: 0113 242 9700
Confidential fax: 0113 242 3038
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This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by QD In-House Legal and all direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them for consideration.



Brick Court Chambers have recently moved to substantial new premises at 7/8 Essex Street. This has given us the opportunity to expand.

We would welcome applications from barristers of outstanding ability at all levels above three years' practice in both our core areas of practice, commercial law and EU law. We also invite applications from practitioners experienced in human rights law, competition law and public law.

Please apply in confidence to Sarah Goss at the address below.

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Support for marriage and the family is at the heart of the Government's strategy for modernising Britain. But where all attempts to save a marriage have failed mediation, not litigation, may be an option for couples contemplating divorce. As well as keeping the channels of communication open, it has the added advantage of reducing conflict. And by reducing conflict, mediation can help to reduce the financial costs of resolving disputes. At the Legal Aid Board, we are actively recruiting organisations that can provide quality-assured family mediation services. This initiative will be rolled out on an area-by-area basis, with the ultimate aim of providing state-funded mediation to all areas of England and Wales. The management team responsible for masterminding the project is small and self-sufficient, with a culture that is passionately dedicated to boldly going where no one has gone before.

Team Manager

c. £32,000

Working closely with the Project Manager, this is definitely not a job for the faint-hearted and it will certainly stretch all of your management skills. You'll manage the day to day operation of the team, overseeing the negotiation and delivery of supplier contracts, as well as contributing to the strategic direction of the initiative.

A self-starter and people manager who leads from the front, you will need to be financially astute with experience of negotiating large contracts. Analytical and decisive, you will have exceptional influencing and presentation skills and the personal presence to generate trust and enthusiasm for everything that you do. You won't be held back by conventional thinking or restricted by outmoded methods. No stranger to hard work, you will know how important it is to achieve the goals that you've set, whilst always aiming to go that step further.

All of the roles are based in Central London with regular travel throughout England and Wales. This is management at the cutting edge and it calls for a flexible approach to working hours, tolerance of stressful situations and above all a sense of humour. But if you are brave enough to take a step into the unknown, one thing you can be sure of, is the fact that you will be part of a team that genuinely applies the principles of work hard/play hard. Make your bold career move by sending your CV to Liz Seary, Legal Aid Board, 85 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8AA. Fax 0171 613 8632. Closing date for replies 8th April 1999.

Project Consultants

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Your role will be to liaise with providers of mediation services and the legal profession. You will build a level of expertise that will be called upon by people from both within and outside of the Legal Aid Board.

Responsible for your own project areas you will assist mediation services in implementing and meeting the mediation franchise standards of the Legal Aid Board. It will be your responsibility to ensure that the work is completed on schedule and within budget. Experience of change management gained in a results-driven and demanding environment is essential. A talented individual, with a personality that people warm to, you will need outstanding communication and presentation skills as well as proven budgeting and financial expertise.

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Financial services London

Solicitor with approximately 5 years' general commercial experience to join high calibre legal department of fast growing financial services company. Work will include a broad range of contract, commercial and corporate matters, both in the UK and in Continental Europe. Prior financial experience, though desirable, is not essential. You should be able to manage high value transactions and manage relationships with external lawyers in the UK and overseas. You should also be able to work as a member of various teams, be computer literate and, ideally, fluent in at least one other European language.

Contact: Sonya Rayner or Marianne Lewis

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Construction City

Major firm with substantial international construction practice seeks 2-5 yr qual solr for non-contentious and contentious caseload. Young, busy dept with wide range of work including headline cases and major PFI projects.

Professional support City

We are inundated with positions for prof support lawyers. Specialisations include lit, property, corporate, banking, capital markets, employment, pensions, construction, IT and tax. Salaries often match those paid to fee-earners.

Property partner Holborn

Thriving practice seeks senior solr to inherit broad caseload of mainly comm prop work. Clients include developers, investors & retailers undertaking wide range of transactions including high value portfolio sales and purchases.

Energy/projects US firm

London office of leading international energy/projects practice, offers 2-5 year qualified energy/projects solr (with either commercial or finance background) work of highest quality. Outstanding salaries (c. £60-80,000 plus pension and other benefits).

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Preparing for interviews

Many newly qualified solicitors are leaving to attend interviews again for the first time since they graduated. Their old techniques should still work well, but they may find the interviews more difficult. They are now being seen as a source of revenue and as a potential partner.

One problem for newly qualified solicitors is the period of time which has elapsed since they left their training. Just as they are being seen as a source of revenue, they are also being seen as a source of revenue. It's important, therefore, to revise for the interview as if it were an exam. Go over your old transactions. Refresh your mind on all the angles. Your interviewers will make no allowances if you've forgotten what you know. When you include a minor on your CV, you should be ready to discuss it.

Our consultants have produced a guide to writing a CV and preparing for interviews. Please write Richard Handley on 0171 606 8844 if you would like a copy.

Richard Handley

SHOWTIME

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Showtime is the fastest growing, direct-to-home, digital satellite pay TV service for the Middle East. The Network (a joint media venture between Viacom Inc. and KIPCO) has an 11 channel line-up including Paramount, Nickelodeon, Discovery, MTV, VH-1 and The Movie Channel. The territories covered include the Gulf countries and we have recently expanded into Egypt and North Africa.

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- dealing with all aspects of the acquisition and international distribution of films and other products for TV and package programmed services;
- advising on related advertising and marketing issues and more general commercial/IP matters from talent, to music licensing, agreements;
- the ability to field non-entertainment-related queries (for example employment matters) and support the business as a whole.

To perform the role you will need between 4 and 8 years' post qualified media experience gained in-house or with a leading entertainment law firm. You must also have the strength of personality to negotiate with vigour and take a creative approach to problem-solving.

This is a genuinely rare opportunity for an experienced media lawyer to make their mark with a young, expanding Network backed by one of the world's largest entertainment companies. A highly competitive remuneration package is on offer.

To apply please send your CV to our retained consultants Lizzie Orange or Nick Creed at ZMB Industry, 37 Sun Street, London, EC2M 2PL. Confidential fax 0171 523 3823. E-mail: lizzie.orange@zmbgroup.com. Alternatively call us on 0171 523 1250 (evenings/weekends 0181 740 4108). This assignment is being handled exclusively by ZMB Industry. All direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them. Closing date is 9th April, 1999.

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AND THE WINNING JOB IS...

FINANCE To £120,000
This blue chip US practice is looking for a finance lawyer who wants more regular hours and possibly a part-time position to join their team. The client base is unmatched and the pay structure shows how much emphasis they are putting on this role. Ref: T81798

FUNDS/VENTURE CAPITAL To £70,000
One of the most interesting practices in London with its strong Anglo-American client. Lawyers at all levels who are interested in doing a mix of financial services/funds/venture capital work are of great interest, particularly those with two plus years' experience. Certainly a more unusual route into a US practice. Ref: T80832

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION To £50,000
Arguably one of the City's most high profile and powerful litigation departments now seeks a number of litigation lawyers of 2-4 years' experience. You will already be working in a leading City regional firm, looking for the biggest, most exciting work. Both domestic and international work available. Ref: T80519

CORPORATE TAX £30,000
This top tier City firm has one of the youngest, friendliest and most prestigious corporate tax departments. The work is a real mix - including corporate, tax and finance matters. You will be 4-6 years qualified seeking a quick track to partnership. Ref: T80532

CORPORATE/TELECOMS To £250,000
Approachable, professional and successful people stepping away from meetings with this firm have only ever positive things to say. While fairly new to the London scene, the practice in the US and elsewhere shows the future. The IT/Telecoms side is a growing market and if you feel excited by the environment you are in, this is the place to breakout and have more direct input in the practice as a whole. Ref: T42063

SHIPPING LAWYERS To £42,000
This leading shipping practice requires lawyers to carry out full range of maritime litigation both wet and dry. If you have 1-3 years' experience, a very good academic record and quality experience then the firm would like to hear from you. Opportunity to deal with outstanding work in a dynamic, young, friendly environment. Ref: T24481

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY To £70,000
This medium sized practice is one of the truly great names in commercial property work. The work on offer will be big ticket to say the least and will include huge portfolio sales and purchases, complex property financings as well as more regular work. You must be at least 2 years' experience with a entrepreneurial flair. Ref: T20642

IT To £42,000
An excellent opportunity for go-ahead lawyers 0-3 years' experience to join the rapidly expanding IT department of this well-known firm. The firm has one of the most highly regarded IT/Telecoms practices in the City. NAs must have some relevant experience in training. Ref: T10835

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL To £47,000
This medium-sized City firm is looking for top calibre lawyers to join their expanding department. Only candidates with an excellent pedigree from top 50 City firms or leading regional practices will be considered. Interesting mix of M&A, corporate finance, joint ventures and commercial transactions. Ref: T46576

CORPORATE PSL To £70,000
This top tier City firm was one of the first practices to introduce PSLs as playing a key role in the business of law. It now seeks a highly able corporate practitioner willing to transfer over to PSL related work. You will be at least 2 years' experience and have had excellent City training. Ref: T46839

DEFAMATION To £45,000
A rare opportunity not just to join this expanding and dynamic law firm but also to join its well respected defamation team. Ideally you will have relevant experience but if you are able to demonstrate the requisite academic and commercial skills needed for this progressive law firm then there is everything to play for. The work is of top calibre and for some of the country's highest profile names. Ref: T80745

MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE To £40,000
Rare opportunity at this extremely highly regarded firm to carry out medical negligence work. You will likely be 6 months to 4 years qualified with top calibre and relevant experience, almost certainly with a recognised name in this field. This firm has a friendly team ethos whilst maintaining a progressive, commercial approach. Excellent opportunity. Ref: T81814

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact David David, Charles Sheppard or Greg Alexander (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 405 6082 (0411 306 515 or 0171 784 8186 ext 4082) or write to them at QD Legal, e-mail: david@qdgroup.co.uk, sheppard@qdgroup.co.uk, alexander@qdgroup.co.uk

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PARIS 2-5yrs
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TELECOMS/COMMERCIAL c.2yrs
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TRADEMARKS 1-5 yrs / TM Agent
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COMMERCIAL 2-4yrs
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IT LITIGATION Partner
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EMPLOYMENT-Advocacy 1-4 yrs
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INT.CONSTRUCTION LIT/ARBIT. 4-8yrs
Major City construction firm seeks top calibre international litigator with expertise in litigation, arbitration & ADR. Ideally gained in other jurisdictions and accustomed to doing their own advocacy. The role will involve international level understanding large scale project litigation and dispute resolution work and will suit an ambitious lawyer with the personality and drive to make a mark in this progressive firm. Asian language skills may be an asset.

PROPERTY/TELECOMS NQ-2yrs
Thriving property department in Partner/Holborn firm can offer both a quality of life and an excellent quality of work to a newly qualified property lawyer with an interest in working on behalf of some major telecoms clients. City training essential.

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Two junior solicitors sought to join the Lloyds office of this thriving medium-sized firm to undertake a mixture of professional indemnity, product liability and some reinsurance work. Experience gained in a recognised insurance firm essential.

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If you have good transactional experience and a genuine commitment to environmental law, this could be the move for you - this top City firm, with a recognised strength in this area, requires a new member of its close knit team, due to an upturn in instructions. Outstanding benefits.

FINANCIAL SERVICES NQ-3yrs
A newly qualified lawyer is now sought by this top tier City firm for its Financial Services Group. A great training opportunity would be useful but not absolutely essential - more important is a strong interest in Financial Services work, particularly in relation to investment funds.

KNOW-HOW PTime/Home Working
We continue to receive instructions for professional support lawyers in City firms. This week we have new vacancies in the areas of Corporate, Litigation and Property. You should have 4-10 years' experience, preferably from a City firm and have a high level of drive and enthusiasm.

PRIVATE CLIENT 1-4 yrs
Brand new vacancy at this progressive City law firm for junior private client lawyer, currently working at a recognised Private Client firm, ideally with some on-shore/off-shore experience. Exciting move if you are seeking a more dynamic commercial atmosphere.

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For an informal discussion about this post, contact Eddie Davis on 0181 478 9081.

Applicants with disabilities who meet the minimum criteria in the person specification will be shortlisted.

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Minicom Service 0181 514 6466. Minicom users can also contact the appropriate number or extension by ringing "Typetalk" on 0800 95 95 98 and quoting account number 735392.

Please quote ref. LS323 when applying.
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Classic adds famous name to heart of women's tour

IN JANUARY, Tim Howland sat in a restaurant in Chelsea and outlined his hopes for women professional golfers in Europe. The new chief executive of the European Ladies' Professional Golf Association talked for nearly an hour about his plans to put women's professional golf on a firmer footing. This morning, he unveils the fruit of his labours over the past three months — the competitive schedule for 1999.

There will be 15 events in ten countries, including mainland Italy for the first time, Morocco, Portugal and Austria, for a total prize fund of £3.1 million. The minimum prize fund for any event is £100,000.

"It puts the tour back on a healthy footing," Howland said yesterday. "It is not a bad effort after just three months and there is a possibility of adding one more event. It is 50 per cent better in terms of the number of events than last year and the prize-money is up by £700,000. We are on course to achieve our five-year goal of a minimum of 20 events in Europe with a minimum prize fund at each event of £250,000."

GOLF
By John Hopkins
golf correspondent

The tour starts with not so much a bang as an explosion — the Evian Masters in Evian-les-Bains, France, in June, where the prize-money of nearly £690,000 makes it the fifth-biggest event in the world. It continues through Sweden, France, Austria and Germany before it returns to Scotland, England and Sweden in August for what might be termed the heart of the tour.

Between August 5 and 29, there will be three important events in succession followed

by the inaugural Laura Davies Classic. The prize-money at these four events alone is nearly £1.5 million and should be enough to guarantee the presence of fields of high quality.

The McDonald's WPGA Championship of Europe, which is likely to move to a new venue in 2000, will be staged again at Gleneagles from August 5 to 8, followed by the Westlakes British Women's Open at Woburn. The tour will then move to Sweden for the Compaq Open before returning to England and Brockley Hall for the event named after Davies, Europe's best-known woman golfer.

"I have just returned from the United States, where I had a meeting about the 2000 Sol-

heim Cup with Ty Votaw, my opposite number," Howland said. "In a sense, I have an easier job than he does. As Laura Davies said to me: 'If you put events with a minimum prize fund of £300,000 on the right dates, then you will certainly get the stars back.'" Davies has committed herself to playing in at least nine events in Europe this year and Alison Nicholas to even more.

Howland is the sixth chief executive of the women's tour since it started in 1979. As this suggests, the tour has had a troubled life, with splits between management and members. Additionally, it has suffered by comparison with the various tours for men professional golfers and getting sponsorship has been like drawing teeth.

Indeed, if there is a doubt about the new schedule, it is based on what has happened in the past, namely that sponsors have been named and events announced at the start of the year, only for a sponsor to reduce its commitment later and perhaps cause an event to be cancelled.

1999 EUROPEAN WOMEN'S TOUR

JUNE: 8-12: Evian Masters, Royal Evian, France
JULY: 1-4: Chrysler Open, Halmstad, Sweden
JULY: 8-11: French Open, Paris International, 18-17: Austrian Open, Steiermarkischer, 22-25: German Open, Treudenberg
AUGUST: 5-8: McDonald's WPGA Championship, Gleneagles, 12-15: Westlakes, British Open, Woburn, 18-22: Compaq Open, Örebro, Sweden, 27-30: Laura

Davies Classic, Brockley Hall, England, SEPTEMBER: 2-5: Doncaster, Irish Open, Letterkenny, 8-10: Players Championship, 11-14: Paddy's Irish Open, 15-18: Paddy's Irish Open, 19-22: Paddy's Irish Open, 23-26: Paddy's Irish Open, 27-30: Paddy's Irish Open

New putting style helps Webb win hand down

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

IN THE days before the long putter, putting cack-handed — left hand below right — was one of the last refuges of the desperate. No longer, Karrie Webb, a quiet, unflamboyant Queenslander, has made the cross-handed style acceptable.

It is hard to argue with three wins in six starts and a tally of 82 under par in 23 rounds since she took up the method.

Add in a haul of \$419,063 (about £255,500), which includes the \$127,500 first prize for victory in the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley here on Sunday, and you have a 24-year-old phenomenon who has won 12 times and amassed more than \$3 million in little more than three years on the United States tour, a record.

Webb switched to what the

Americans call the left-hand-low method after a visit to Scotty Cameron, one of the world's putting experts, in California late last year.

Her stroke was filmed from all angles and they decided that she rolled the ball better with her left hand below her right. She has been awesome ever since.

On Sunday she finished with a 69, her seventh successive round under 70, for a total of 274, 14 under par, four shots ahead of Lorie Kane, of Canada.

Janice Moodie and Jane Geddes shared third place on 280 after scorching round in 65. Moodie, 25, from Glasgow, had nine birdies, including three in a row to finish, and is now fifth on the money-list with \$154,281 (about £94,000). Webb is No 1.

Herron holds his nerve to see off challengers

FROM JOHN HOPKINS IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA

IF YOUR nickname is Lumpy, then you had better be good at something and, fortunately, Tim Herron is. Herron is an accomplished young golfer.

good enough to have led a strong field from first to last in the Bay Hill Invitational, which ended here on Sunday evening, for his third victory on the US tour in the past four years. Herron, 29, outlasted Davis Love III, with whom he had been tied since the second round, and then defeated Tom Lehman on the second hole of a sudden-death play-off.

Victory was expected to go to either of the more experienced Americans and not Herron, who is so nicknamed because of a certain portliness. But Love could not hole a putt and Lehman remains a little short of full match fitness after an operation late last year on the

shoulder that he injured on the eve of the 1998 Open.

After 16 consecutive pars, Love bogeyed the 17th to fall one behind Herron and Lehman. Herron failed to hole an eight-foot putt on the 18th for a birdie that would have given him victory, but made no mistake on the second extra hole. He hit a drive as straight as an arrow and an iron to 20 feet, from where he two-putted for a birdie four.

The last round was marked by the poor performances of the four European Ryder Cup players. Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam finished with rounds of 79 to share 72nd place on 295, seven over par. Later, Lee Westwood and Colin Montgomerie also had rounds of 79 to finish joint sixteenth on 291, 17 shots adrift of Herron and Lehman.



Urmanov plays to the crowd in Helsinki yesterday

Russians make most of qualified success

FROM ANGELA COURT IN HELSINKI

THE pressure was obvious when the world figure skating championships began here with the men's qualifying round yesterday. Nerves were on edge and while some competitors shone, others struggled.

The qualifying round used to be a way of securing a place in the main event, but it is now worth 0.4 points towards each skater's final score and this preliminary exercise can, therefore, make or break a challenge for a medal. For Evgeny Plushenko, Alexei Yagudin and Alexei Urmanov, all from Russia, it has almost certainly turned the battle for medals into a three-way contest.

As at the European championships in January, the men's event appears to rest

between the three Russians. Plushenko, 16, won the first group with six triple jumps and a quadruple toe loop, while Yagudin won the second, ahead of Urmanov. Few of the other skaters appeared to be capable of breaking the Russians' stranglehold.

The top 15 in each of the two groups will progress to the short programme tonight, but Clive Shorten and Neil Wilson, both of Great Britain, will not be among them. They failed to survive the cut and, since the Britain team is without a woman competitor and anyone in the pairs championship, Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland, the ice dancers, are the only surviving representatives here.

RACING

Kelleway on track for quick start

By Chris McGrath

THOUGH they dispute the dizziness of their profession, a diverging emphasis is illustrated by the way Kieren Fallon and Frankie Dettori begin the new Flat season this week.

Dettori is in the desert, helping Godolphin prepare for the Dubai World Cup and an exotic season to follow; Fallon, still as inspired by quantity as quality, begins his quest for a third successive championship at Doncaster on Thursday.

The first ammunition for his defence is furnished by Gay Kelleway, who has booked Fallon for Direct Reaction in the Brocksby Stakes.

Unhappily, the priorities of television mean that the season nowadays opens with a drab apprentice handicap. As its first juvenile contest, however, the Brocksby can preserve its traditional role as a starting gun to the new campaign.

Kelleway said yesterday: "I had one just beaten by Mind Games in this race, and then Kieren was fourth for me last year and said we would have won with luck in running. This one would be the best I've run, though. My father bought him for 38 grand at Doncaster Sales. He's by College Chapel and is a typical two-year-old, very precocious — a lovely horse, one to follow."

The Lincoln meeting is my favourite of the year. I've always done well there. Every-one's always raring to go. I just hope my horses feel the same."

This year Kelleway's usual relish for a fresh start is compounded by having recently moved to new stables at Lingfield racecourse. She has especially earnest hopes, then, that Russian Music can win the Worthington Lincoln itself.

"He was second in a listed race at last year's meeting and has gone right down the

weights since," she said. "He had a hairline fracture of his hock and was out for a long time, but I've trained him specially for this race and he worked superbly at the weekend. He was once rated 101 but now runs off 57, and he has that bit of quality about him. I've saddled the fourth in the Lincoln but this is definitely the best horse I've run in it. Seb Sanders rides."

Kelleway has evidently settled in quickly since moving from Dorset. "We had nine winners in December, our first month here, and have now filled 50 of the 60 boxes," she said. "With my system, I think I could train winners on the moon, but the facilities here are really good: we've a new woodchip gallop as well as the racetrack to use."

Fallon sits out the Lincoln because of a riding ban picked up during an otherwise productive winter in Hong Kong. The resulting vacancy on the well-backed Chewit was yesterday filled by Darryll Holland. "We had a choice of three jockeys — Darryll, John Reid and Michael Roberts. It was a hard decision," Gary Moore, Chewit's trainer, said.

Fallon, meanwhile, was confirming himself in peak form — and consolidating his reputation overseas — by leading a European team to beat their American rivals in an international challenge at Santa Anita. Fallon won two races, the others falling to Olivier Peslier and Kent Desormeaux.

One of the most remarkable achievements on the Flat in 1999 must be chronicled even before the turf season begins. China Castle's success at Southwell yesterday was his seventh on Fribresand since the turn of the year — a spree that reflects splendidly on his trainer, Pat Haslam. Yesterday the gelding ran off a mark two stone higher than when it began on January 11.

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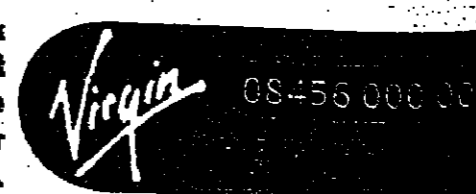
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CHANGING TIMES

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FOOTBALL

Harvey's cream reap benefits of youth culture

WHEN Everton and Aston Villa next meet in the FA Carling Premiership, the occasion will more than likely produce a fascinating contest of precocious talent, between Francis Jeffers, Everton's 18-year-old striker, and Gareth Barry, the 18-year-old defender at Villa. The pair, Jeffers with his spindly physique but cast-iron eye for goal, and Barry, his temperament and assuredness outstanding, are the most celebrated graduates of each club's youth system.

Indeed, so established are they in their respective first-team squads that, when the clubs face each other tonight in *The Times* FA Youth Cup sixth round, Jeffers and Barry will be supporting their peers from the comfort of the directors' box at Goodison Park. It might be a strange feeling for them, but not one you can imagine, they would swap. The Youth Cup has provided a stepping-stone for their careers

Stephen Wood reports on the success of The Times FA Youth Cup

and, if the other Everton and Villa hopefuls look up to them in the stands tonight, it will not be so much literally as metaphorically.

Colin Harvey, the former manager of Everton, has been in charge of Everton's youth set-up for two years. Last season he guided them to the FA Youth Cup, beating Blackburn Rovers in the two-leg final. "Franny has set an example for the other lads to follow," Harvey said. "They feel happy for one of their mates to be doing so well, but it also motivates them that bit more. They

know what it takes to make it to the first-team squad and Franny's success has shown it is possible."

Of the two, it is Barry who has progressed slightly further. Jeffers began the season in the youth team; indeed, his hat-trick against Swindon Town in the fourth round persuaded Walter Smith, the Everton manager, that he was ready for the challenge of first-team football. Jeffers appeared a natural, scoring on his full home debut in the "real thing", a 2-1 victory over Coventry City in the FA Cup fifth round last month.

Barry, however, is a regular in the England under-21 squad and his performances for Villa were rewarded earlier this season with an invitation by Glenn Hoddle, the former England coach, to train with the senior squad. The emergence of Barry came in a Youth Cup last season, just after he had arrived from Brighton and Hove Albion, his first club.

Kevin MacDonald, the former Liverpool player who is now a coach to the Villa youth team, said: "Gareth was playing in midfield at the time, but the former youth team coach [Tony McAndrew] decided to change and use him at centre back. Sometimes, the pace in midfield catches up with players as they progress. Gareth's passing ability was still suited to playing at the back, and immediately you could see it click. After a cou-



Jeffers, left, of Everton, and Barry, of Aston Villa, have made an impact in the first team after graduating from youth football

ple more weeks in the youth team, he was called up to the reserves and, by the end of the season, he was training and playing with the first team."

Progression in the Youth Cup is treasured, but the most accurate barometer of the success of a club's youth policy is the number of players that manage to play in the first team. Manchester United's productivity levels have seen them assume a Godfather-like status in this respect. Arsenal have mounted their own chal-

lenge, encouraged by the vision and contacts book of Arsène Wenger, the manager. Their youth team, having beaten Crystal Palace in a fifth-round replay, meet York City or West Ham United in the next round.

Everton, nevertheless, can claim to have been the best youth side in the country over the past two seasons. Michael Ball and Danny Cadamarteri have long since made the transition to the senior side, while Richard Dunne, Phil Jones

and Adam Parley, members of their Youth Cup-winning team last season, have tasted the big time this.

"We look at children from the age of nine and the hope is that, one day, you will have a first team made up of home-grown players," Harvey said. Arsenal, the Double-winners last season, have raised the stakes somewhat. They have paid £2 million to Notts County for the services of Jermaine Pennant, a 15-year-old, and Jeremie Aladiere was enticed

from France's national academy on a seven-year deal believed to be worth £1.3 million.

The latest controversy surrounds their acquisition of Moritz Volz, a 16-year-old from Schalke 04, the German club. Villa, for one, admit that they have been left behind. MacDonald said: "Competition is everything in this game and we have some catching up to do, especially if Arsenal are now looking abroad to find the best players. If that's what it takes, we will do that as well."

LEE CARSLY, the midfielder player, completed a £3.4 million transfer from Derby County to Blackburn Rovers yesterday, swapping a challenge for a place in Europe next season for a battle against relegation from the FA Carling Premiership at the end of this one.

The move is expected to double his salary, but Carsley insisted that money was not a factor in his decision. "Blackburn is a massive club and I think it is in a false position at the moment," he said. "In fact, relegation was not mentioned when I signed and it has not crossed my mind, either."

"People have also mentioned the financial side, but

Carsley beats path to Blackburn

By Stephen Wood and George Caulkin

money has never motivated me one bit. I come from Sheldon, a poor area in Birmingham, and I would be happy going back to live there at any time. At the end of the day, the manager at Blackburn has told me that he can make me a better player and I can't ask for any more than that."

Blackburn persuaded Carsley to join them despite some belated interest from Aston Villa and Everton and it takes the spending of Brian Kidd, the manager, to more than £18 million in less than four

months. However, he hinted that it might be the last signing for a while.

"I identified my targets early on and I'm glad I've been successful," Kidd said. "None has been a picnic buy."

Carsley, 25, whose contract takes him through to the summer of 2003, follows Ashley Ward, Keith Gillespie, Matt Jansen and Jason McAteer as Kidd's big signings since he became the Blackburn manager after the departure of Roy

Hodgson. He is expected to make his debut against Middlesbrough on April 3.

Newcastle United have emerged as the favourites to sign Dean Richards, the England Under-21 defender, with his contract with Wolverhampton Wanderers expires this summer. Ruud Gullit, the Newcastle manager, has grown disenchanted with the defensive inconsistencies of his side and the purchase of a dominant centre half has

become his priority. Richards, 24, has the potential to fit that mould, although inconsistent form and fitness have seen his valuation tumble from the £5 million price that Wolves once placed on his shoulders. However, he has played a significant role in his team's push for a promotion place in the Nationwide League first division this season.

Peter Reid has begun the formidable task of transforming Sunderland into an FA Carling Premiership force by signing Carsten Fredgaard,

the Denmark Under-21 international. Reid will pay Lyngby £1.8 million for the player, who, providing that he negotiates a medical successfully, will agree a four-year contract at the Stadium of Light. Fredgaard will take no part in the last eight games of his new side's promotion campaign, however. The attacking midfielder, 22, will remain with Lyngby until the Danish season ends in three months.

Pontus Karmark, the Sweden defender, will leave Leicester City when his contract expires at the end of June and return to AIK Stockholm. Karmark's wife and daughter live in Sweden.



Carsley made £3.4m move from Derby

Kirsten sets run record in victory

WELLINGTON (final day of five): South Africa beat New Zealand by eight wickets

SOUTH AFRICA gained a resounding victory in the third Test against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve yesterday to win the series 1-0. Resuming at 217 for seven, still 59 runs in arrears, the home side scored 74 more runs in 68 minutes before being dismissed for 291 to leave South Africa a target of 16 runs for victory.

Dion Nash and Simon Doull added 48 for the ninth wicket to avoid an innings defeat but the touring side were let safely to their target by Gary Kirsten, after Herschelle Gibbs had been run out for a duck and Jacques Kallis had been bowled by Daniel Vettori for four.

When Kirsten reached eight, he became his country's leading run-scorer in all Tests. He began the second innings with 3,464 runs and finished with 3,476, five runs ahead of Bruce Mitchell, who played 42 Tests for South Africa between 1929 and 1949. This was Kirsten's 53rd Test match. Steve Elworthy, with four wickets in each innings, was named man of the match.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings: 222 (G R Stead 68, C Z Harris 68, S M Pollock 5 for 33, S Elworthy 4-58)

Second Innings: 291 (G R Stead 68, C Z Harris 68, S M Pollock 5 for 33, S Elworthy 4-58)

South Africa: First Innings: 291 (G R Stead 68, C Z Harris 68, S M Pollock 5 for 33, S Elworthy 4-58)

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Second Innings: 291 (G R Stead 68, C Z Harris 68, S M Pollock 5 for 33, S Elworthy 4-58)

Gough receives England's player-of-the-year award

By John Stern

DARREN GOUGH'S elevation over the past 12 months from the ranks of the England team to its spiritual helm was confirmed again yesterday when he was named Cornhill England Player of the Year, for which he received an engraved glass trophy and a cheque for £10,000.

His consistent excellence with the new ball against South Africa last summer and in the winter against Australia, where he took a Test hat-trick, made Gough a straight-forward choice for the award's selection panel, which included David Lloyd, the England coach.



Dazzling: Gough displays his Cornhill trophy yesterday

"I know I have a lot on my shoulders, but I prefer it that way because it's a challenge," Gough said. "It is nice to hear people saying I'm a world-class fast bowler, but I don't want to do it just for a year. I want to do it consistently like Curtly Ambrose and Courtney Walsh have over a number of years."

Gough travels to Lahore on Sunday with the rest of England's 15-man World Cup squad for practice, before moving on to Sharjah for a triangular one-day tournament involving India and Pakistan. Although the conditions there will bear no relation to this country in May, Gough believes there is value in preparing there. "We have a chance to work out a game-plan for the World Cup," he said. "It is also a chance to see India and Pakistan, who I haven't played much against."

Western Australia beat Queensland by an innings and 31 runs to secure back-to-back Sheffield Shield titles. Conceding Western Australia a first-innings lead of 160 after Tom Moody declared at 425 for nine on Sunday, Queensland crumbled and lost their last eight wickets for just 52 runs yesterday. Only the openers, Jimmy Maher (58) and Matt Hayden (25), got past 20.

Ganguly destroys Sri Lanka

SAURAV GANGULY scored an unbeaten 130 and then took four wickets for 21 as India defeated Sri Lanka by 80 runs in Nagpur to hand the World Cup holders the fourteenth defeat in their past 16 one-day games.

Rahul Dravid scored 116 during a record second-wicket stand of 236 with Ganguly as India piled up 287 for four from their 50 overs. The Sri Lankans were then all out for 207 in just 38 overs after Ajit Agarkar, the pace bowler, ripped through the top order

with three for 14 from six overs on his return to international cricket after a four-month absence through injury. The irrepressible Ganguly then polished off the Sri Lankans.

Sri Lanka, who lost to Pakistan by nine runs in the opening match of the three-nation series on Friday, must win both their return matches to retain any hope of making the final on April 4.

Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, whose team defend their World Cup title in

England this summer, was confident of better days ahead. "We are capable of coming back," he said. "One victory should help us to turn the corner and we are working hard towards that."

Ajay Jadeja struggled to make 11 off 22 balls as India scored 51 for one in their first 14 overs. Once he had gone, however, Ganguly combined with Dravid to flay a depleted Sri Lanka attack that was without Muttiah Muralitharan and Sanath Jayasuriya, the first-choice spin bowlers.

CRICKET

WORLDWIDE LEAGUE: Sunday

Greater London Leopards 141 Milton Keynes Royals 77; London Towers 94 Thames Valley Tigers 90.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Sunday

Los Angeles Lakers 107 Chicago Bulls 90; New York Knicks 101 Philadelphia 76ers 81; Miami Heat 94 Orlando Magic 81.

WOMEN'S

CAPE TOWN: Spar Atlantic 100; Western Province 100; South Africa 100; Western Province 100.

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IN BRIEF

Rangers win race for Dutch forward

RANGERS yesterday won the race to sign Michael Mols, the Holland forward, who agreed a four-year contract with the leaders of the Scottish Premier League ahead of Ajax, Middlesbrough and Sheffield Wednesday.

A fee has yet to be agreed with FC Utrecht, Mols's club, but it is expected to be about £4 million. Mols, 28, will join Rangers at the end of the season. Mols said that Rangers' Dutch connections — the coach, Dick Advocaat, and the players, Arthur Numan and Giovanni van Bronckhorst — and the prospect of European football took him to Ibrox.

Sepp Blatter, the president of FIFA, is taking legal action against the author of a British book that claims his election as president last summer was rigged. The allegations appear in *How They Stole The Game*, by David Yallop, an English author, which Blatter is trying to stop being published. Blatter has had the book banned in Switzerland, but it has been published in Germany and Holland.

Ireland expect to hear today whether their European Championship qualifying campaign against Macedonia will go ahead in Skopje on Saturday. The game is under threat from the possibility of Nato air strikes on Serbian military installations. UEFA is considering postponing it or moving it to a neutral venue.

Emile Heskey, the Leicester City striker, has pulled out of the England Under-21 squad for the European Championship qualifying match against Poland on Friday with a recurrence of a back problem. The game, at Southampton, looks likely to be a sell-out.

Fifa has given its approval to the squad selected by England for the world youth championships in Nigeria. England were warned by Sepp Blatter, the Fifa president, that they faced suspension if they sent a below-strength party. But Chris Ramsey, the England youth coach, said that the governing body had "no problem" with the squad, which will be announced this week.

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BY MARK SOUSTER


BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

Gatland: not despondent

NATIONAL SCHOOLS SEVENS RESULTS

SPORT IN BRIEF

Clayton to chance his arm


SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FAVUS	GRISON
a. A wind	a. A secret servant
b. A fawn	b. A type of hawk
c. A skin disease	c. A Capuchin friar
GARD	FACUND
	a. Fertile

King may prevent world title rematch

BY SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

"The fight is far from done," Eliades said. "Never mind the question of the referee and judges, which will have to be sorted out, there are too many other problems."

Players get in touch with their feelings

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

For years, league has described itself, unofficially, as the "greatest game". Now all that passion has been harnessed in a logo and slogan that Neil Tunncliffe, the RFL chief executive, said "will become the means by which you recognise rugby league, as the red rose symbolises the Rugby Football Union".



in terms of falling in and out of love with the game. Andy Gregory is a somewhat hopeless case. He announced after his Salford Reds side were beaten by Wakefield Trinity on Sunday that he was considering his future as coach, because of abusive calls to his family. By yesterday, he was defiant after talks with John Wilkinson, the Salford chairman, who has persuaded him against resigning before. "I've sat down with those I care about and I'm not going to quit," Gregory said.

England's triple chance falters

"I tried to block Mary's path to the jack," McManus said afterwards. "But she found a way to pick it up with a running bowl and put it in the ditch with her last bowl."

Scotland maintained their unbeaten record in both events, beating Spain and Swaziland.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

FAVUS
a. A wind
b. A fawn
c. A skin disease

GARD
a. A species of grape
b. A fencing thrust
c. Attention

GRISON
a. A secret servant
b. A type of hawk
c. A Capuchin friar

FACUND
a. Fertile
b. An artificial wave
c. Eloquent

Answers on page 50

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

The white queen occupies a threatening post but is also, to a certain extent, awkwardly placed. How did Black exploit this?

Solution on page 57

KEENE ²on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

6 Qe2 Ng4
 7 Kh1 Nxe4+
 8 Kg1 Nh3+
 9 Kh1 Ne2+
 10 Rd2 Nd2+
 11 Kg1 Ne4+

White resigns

Here is a game showing just what Murugan is capable of.

White: Westra
 Black: Thiruchelvam

Caro-Kann Defence

of Nakamura's victory

a b c d
Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

MOVE

Solution on page 57

Paradise lost, but was it ever really found?

Fletcher Christian has always been a fascinating, but not necessarily always appealing, character. Certainly not to Clark Gable, who was reluctant to play the part in Irving Thalberg's *Mutiny On The Bounty*, opposite Charles Laughton's Captain Bligh. He told the producer, bluntly: "Look, Irving, I'm a realistic kind of actor. I've never played in a costume drama in my life. Now you want me to wear a pigtail and velvet knee pants and shoes with silver buckles. The audience will laugh me off the screen."

But what most unsettled Gable was the idea of getting rid of his tache. "I'll be damned if I'll shave off my moustache just because the British Navy didn't allow them. This moustache has been damned lucky for me." Of course, what Gable should have been whining about was that Christian's story only began to get truly interesting long after the mutiny, when he

and his fellow mutineers set sail from Tahiti on *HMS Bounty* to flee the Admiralty's wrath. They eventually made a new Eden for themselves on Pitcairn, an island in the middle of the South Pacific. Who killed Fletcher Christian, Nick Godwin's documentary for Channel 4's *To The Ends Of The Earth* series, took up the story in 1990, a year after the mutiny, when Christian, eight mutineers and 18 Polynesians landed on Pitcairn. The story is pieced together like a torn map through the research of Dr Martin Gibb and his team of Australian archaeologists, who have discovered 38 direct descendants of the mutineers still living on the island - including Tom Christian, Fletcher's great, great, great grandson - along with enough relics of the mutineers' lives to add some flesh to the folklore still surrounding the world's most famous mutiny. Like most Edens, things didn't

run smoothly for very long. By the time two British men of war finally tracked down the rebels nearly two decades later, only one of the original mutineers, David Adams, was left. He was in his fifties and was sharing the tiny island with dozens of women and children. The intervening years were not the sort of paradise they used to show in *Bounty* chocolate bar commercials. This was largely because while they may have been fearless mutineers, Fletcher and his quiver weren't too smart when it came to human nature.

For a start the Europeans carved up all the land among themselves. They also kept most of the Tahitian women. Now, it doesn't take Freud to work out that a Polynesian man - facing a pretty short lifespan anyway - who can't occasionally rub up against a Polynesian woman, soon feels that he's being



Joe Joseph

rubbed up the wrong way. Christian crushed an initial rebellion by killing two Polynesians *pour encourager les autres*. But a couple of years later the remaining Polynesians borrowed the Europeans' rifles on the pretext of going on a pig hunt: the mutineers lent them the guns, in anticipation of the lads bringing home some bacon. Only later did they discover that they themselves were

the bacon: five Europeans, including Christian, were killed. Of the four Europeans who survived the various massacres, one went loopy after swilling too much tea tree liquor, and another became so violent that Adams had to kill him. At this point Adams had a revelation and saw that his mission was to bring up the island's 20 children as Christians. It is still used in Pitcairn's church today.

When representatives of the Admiralty finally came for Adams, they were so taken by what they saw as the redemption of savages by a British seaman, that they spared him from the gallows.

Although Thalberg made the initial movie of the mutiny against Bligh, the sequel depicting the mutineers' descent into savagery and mayhem would have been a natural project for Sam Goldwyn, a producer who liked

his movies to start with an earthquake and then build to a real climax.

Cutting Edge: Playing for England (Channel 4) was the latest evidence that even if England can't produce a world-beating football team, nobody's going to stop us making documentaries about subjects related to that non-world-beating football team. This one follows nine Sheffield Wednesday fans who were selected to play for England, but in a brass band rather than on the pitch. You remember them, don't you? Playing the theme tune from *The Great Escape* every time England played a match in last summer's World Cup?

Expert Mayr's film - by following the band's joyous excitement at being paid to travel around France watching the World Cup, and the band members' subsequent desolation when

England were knocked out on penalties - neatly mirrors the national team's rise and fall. But isn't it time for Kenneth Wolstenholme to come on and tell us that, as far as soccer documentaries go, it really is over now?

In *Bitterest Britain* (BBC2), a couple are licking chocolate body paint off each other's bodies. This is apparently very erotic (avoided, of course, you're not licking chocolate body paint off your own body, which is obviously something kinky you should probably do only in private). What makes chocolate so sexy is that it contains a chemical called phenylethylamine (literally "your place or mine"), which is an anti-depressant that creates a sensation of euphoria similar to that of being in love. Frankly, in these days of safe sex, you're probably better off sticking the chocolate sweet, the ones that melt in your mouth, not on your skin.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (41410)
 - 7.00am Breakfast News (7) (27507)
 - 9.00am *Kilnery* (1) (2222222)
 - 9.45 *Style Challenge* (7694728)
 - 10.10 *The Vanessa Show* (7) (7111762)
 - 10.55 *News: Weather* (7) (3771149)
 - 11.00 *Change This* (3781526)
 - 11.25 *Can't Cook, Won't Cook* (7) (3751385)
 - 11.55 *News: Weather* (7) (7639323)
 - 12.00 *Call My Bluff* (72168)
 - 12.30pm *Wipeout* (4205781)
 - 12.55 *The Weather Show* (7) (53349781)
 - 1.00 *One O'Clock News* (7) (20694)
 - 1.30 *Regional News: Weather* (58278856)
 - 1.40 *Neighbours* (7) (35318014)
 - 2.05 *Ironside* (7) (5539859)
 - 2.55 *Through the Keyhole* (7) (5514174)
 - 3.25 *Children's BBC: Playdays* (6175555)
 - 3.45 *Enchanted Land* (6720507) 3.55 *Hubbub* (9430438) 4.10 *Chirprunks Go to the Movies* (51052410) 4.35 *The Really Wild Show* (5765853) 5.00 *Newswatch* (4414355) 5.10 *Grange Hill* (9101472)
 - 5.33 *Rowling* (7) (980878)
 - 5.35 *Neighbours* (7) (7) (376385)
 - 6.00 *Six O'Clock News: Weather* (7) (859)
 - 6.30 *Regional News Magazine* (439)

- BBC2**
- 7.00am *Children's BBC Breakfast Show*: *Pingu* 7.05 *Teletubbies* 7.30 *Jack and the Beanstalk* 7.55 *Blue Peter* 8.20 *Goosebumps* and the *Ghost Chasers* 8.40 *Polka Dot Shorts* 8.50 *Pingu* 9.00 *German Globo* 9.05 *Hallo aus Berlin* 9.10 *Working It Out* 9.25 *Music Makers* 9.45 *Numberline* 10.00 *Teletubbies* 10.30 *Watch-10.45 Teaching Today* 11.15 *Megamania* 11.35 *Words and Pictures* 11.50 *D-Max* 12.10pm *English Express* 12.30 *Working Lunch* 1.00 *Osaka Doka*
 - 1.10 *The Edge* (7) (41408052)
 - 1.40 *Hard-Drive on History* (55339507)
 - 2.10 *Sporting Greats* Bob Wilson (56198656)
 - 2.40 *News: Weather* (7) (3843946)
 - 2.45 *Westminster* (7) (4313120)
 - 3.25 *News: Weather* (7) (4463472)
 - 3.30 *The Village* (7) (8110304)
 - 3.55 *Key: Advice show* (9126323)
 - 4.25 *Ready, Steady, Cook* (7) (8814168)
 - 4.55 *Eastier* (7) (5899148)
 - 5.30 *Whose House?* (588)
 - 6.00 *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air Comedy* starring Will Smith (7) (425217)
 - 6.25 *Heartbreak High* (7) (823304)
 - 7.10 *The O Zone* with the Cranberries and Feeder (7) (266217)
 - 7.30 *From the Edge Report* on whether the Millennium Dome has been designed with the disabled in mind (7) (965)
 - 8.00 *House Proud* Two self-builders wonder if they'll finish their homes in time for Christmas (4/4) (7) (2226)
 - 8.30 *Your Money or Your Life* A woman turns to Alan Hall for help moving out of her parents' home (7) (1033)
 - 9.00 *Home Front* In the garden. A couple challenge Diarmuid Gavin to make an original play area for their son (7) (8897)

- HTV**
- 5.30am *ITV Morning News* (61762)
 - 6.00 *GMTV* (5485781)
 - 9.25 *Trials* (7) (8818410)
 - 10.30 *This Morning* (7) (44230304)
 - 12.15pm *ITV News* (7) (4273948)
 - 12.30 *ITV Lunchtime News* (7) (4207149)
 - 12.55 *Shedden Street* Tiffany and Carla look home (9634858)
 - 1.30 *Home and Away* Joel is suspended from the police force (7) (35347526)
 - 1.55 *The Jerry Springer Show* Outrageous American talk show (7) (5881930)
 - 2.40 *Wheel of Fortune* (7) (8114138)
 - 3.10 *ITV News Headlines* (7) (4482743)
 - 3.15 *ITV News* (7) (4461014)
 - 3.20 *CITY: Mopstar's Shop* (4482507) 3.30 *Rose and Jim* (9435120) 3.40 *The Wombles* (9422628) 3.55 *Cow and Chicken* (9445507) 4.10 *Snap* (8887014) 4.40 *How 2* (8241209)
 - 5.00 *Home and Away* (7) (7728)
 - 5.30 *WEST: Can You Keep a Secret?* (7) (994)
 - 5.30 *WALLS: Night Owls* Two child stage actors (3/6) (7) (994)
 - 5.58 *ITV Weather* (967781)
 - 6.00 *ITV News* (7) (255)
 - 6.25 *ITV Crimestoppers* (511897)
 - 6.30 *ITV Evening News: Weather* (7) (507)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.20-12.30pm *Central News: Weather* (7960014)
 - 12.55 *Home and Away* (4215168)
 - 1.25 *The Jerry Springer Show* (4870762)
 - 2.10-2.40 *Heart of the Country* (5819410)
 - 3.15-3.20 *Central News: Weather* (4481014)
 - 6.30 *Shedden Street* (994)
 - 6.00-6.30 *Central News at Six: Weather* (255)
 - 11.20-11.30 *Central News: Weather* (562743)
 - 1.00-1.55am *Highlander* (4577705)
 - 4.05 *Central Jinx* (5915988)
 - 5.20-5.30 *Asian Eye* (3013298)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am *Sesame Street* (7) (34120)
 - 7.00 *The Big Breakfast* (10217)
 - 9.00 *Schools: Science in Focus* (4095385)
 - 9.20 *What the Papers Said* (5828101)
 - 9.50 *Eureka* (6400775) 9.45 *Stop, Look, Listen* (8478330) 10.00 *The Number Crew* (6709498) 10.10 *TVM* (9676120)
 - 10.25 *How We Used to Live* (9685255)
 - 10.45 *Worlds of Faith* (9925859) 11.00 *First Edition VI* (3899588) 11.15 *Stage One* (3812439)
 - 11.30 *Powerhouse* (7) (5830)
 - 12.00 *Sesame Street* (7) (34120)
 - 12.30pm *Switched On* (7) (59782)
 - 1.00 *Pat Rescue* (7) (13304)
 - 1.30 *Little Gears Collecting Fun* (58285946)
 - 1.45 *That Midnight Kiss* (1949) Mano Lanza makes his screen debut as an unknown singer who becomes a star. Musical drama, with Kathryn Grayson. Directed by Norman Taurog (7) (4162030)
 - 3.30 *Collectors' Lot* (7) (355)
 - 4.00 *Fifteen-to-One* (7) (120)
 - 4.30 *Roundabout* (7) (378626)
 - 4.55 *Ricki Lake* (7) (5884217)
 - 5.30 *Pat Rescue* (7) (13304)
 - 6.00 *King of the Hill* Bobby, Connie and Joseph explore a cave (7) (7) (897)
 - 6.30 *Home Improvement* (7) (58658)
 - 6.55 *Planet Pop* Magazine featuring pop news and reviews (7) (371491)
 - 7.00 *Channel 4 News: Weather* (7) (870323)
 - 7.50 *Farmed Out* A retiring Monmouth farmer despairs over the sale of his livestock and machinery (7) (416322)
 - 8.00 *Classic British Cars* The 1950s trend to design ever-smaller cars (5/8) (7) (7694)
 - 9.00 *Brookside* (7) (8101)
 - 9.00 *Brookside* Huddle and the Healer The former England coach Glen Huddle discusses the events which surrounded his sacking (7) (6439)
 - 10.00 *Father Ted* The trio make sacrifices for Lent (7) (66507)
 - 10.30 *Queer as Folk* While Stuart is busy making new friends, his sister Marie discovers he's as unreliable as ever, and Nathan leaves Janice in a fit of despair (5/8) (7) (861615)
 - 11.10 *The 11 O'Clock Show* Satirical comedy (7) (241965)

- CHANNEL 5**
- 6.00am *5 News and Sport* Current events (2751746)
 - 7.00 *WideWorld Part three* Katherine Higgins looks into how great houses were afforded (7) (7) (8657438)
 - 7.30 *MTV* (2762965)
 - 7.55 *Wimpy's House* (7) (4161894)
 - 8.00 *Happysdale* (7) (3284217)
 - 8.30 *Dravada* (7) (2383588)
 - 9.00 *South Africa* (7) (7819435)
 - 9.25 *Russell Grant's Postcards* (7) (493458)
 - 9.35 *The Oprah Winfrey Show* (7) (583156)
 - 10.25 *Sunset Beach* (7) (3138149)
 - 11.15 *Loose* (4462156)
 - 12.00 *5 News at Noon* (7) (2387304)
 - 12.30pm *Family Affairs* Dave is in an apologetic mood (7) (7) (1765526)
 - 1.00 *The Bold and the Beautiful* Sally learns Clarke saved C's life (7) (8659410)
 - 1.30 *The Roseanne Show* Entertainment and chat: 5 News Update (1764897)
 - 2.00 *100 Per Cent* (9643626)
 - 2.30 *Good Afternoon Lifestyle* magazine, 5 News Update (1241014)
 - 3.00 *Decorations* (TVM 1985) Part one. Twin sisters exchange places but their pranks have tragic consequences. Drama, with Stefanie Powers and Gina Lollobrigida. Directed by Robert Chasnau/Melville Shevelson (7) (5843551)
 - 5.20 *5 News* (6640205)
 - 5.30 *100 Per Cent* (2089094)
 - 6.00 *5 News: Weather* (2987507)
 - 6.30 *Family Affairs* Josh starts a new venture (7) (297858)
 - 7.00 *Knight Rider* Michael helps a stunt-show owner to land off a greedy land developer (7) (8614014)
 - 7.30 *Nature of Oz* How Australians protect their communication systems from breakdown due to animal interference (7) (5 News Update (2987743)
 - 8.00 *Crime Report* Investigating what happens to the 400,000 cars stolen each year in Britain (4/8) (583732)
 - 8.30 *Sax for Sale* What's the Story? The Sussex prostitute Natalie Davis discusses the implications of legalising brothels - a move the Dutch parliament has recently decided to implement (9642897)
 - 9.00 *Broken Arrow* (1996) Premiere. A pilot, Christian Slater, is double-crossed by his Christian partner John Travolta, who takes off in a top-secret bomber with a plan to extort money from the US Government by aiming the plane's nuclear warheads at a major American city. Directed by John Woo (7) (5 News Update (8071120)
 - 11.00 *Strippers* Behind the scenes of the American lap-dancing industry, chatting with the women (7) (5 News Update (8372948)
 - 12.15am *Two Gals* encounters Boon's former lover while attempting to unlock the secrets of his brother's past (386811)
 - 1.10 *The Jack Docherty Show* With guest Phil Corbett (8069811)
 - 1.50 *Live and Dangerous* Indy car racing from Miami (2685058)
 - 4.40 *Prisoner: Cell Block H* Karyn hangs herself and the woman plan to use Len to set up Joan (787836)
 - 5.30 *100 Per Cent* (7) (8342873)



Kate Humble goes riding in Olesana National Park, Finland (TVM)

- 7.00 *Holiday* J.J. Dando discovers his family appeal and Kate Humble goes riding in Finland (7) (5238)
- 7.30 *Airport* A passenger's stash of weapons forces swift action from policewomen Alison Stewart (7) (7) (323)
- 8.00 *EastEnders* Matthew finds the house has been bought (7) (1863)
- 8.30 *Animal Hospital* Bonzo the kitten returns a week after being found in a disused building (7) (3491)
- 9.00 *Nine O'Clock News: Regional News: Weather* (7) (1255)
- 9.30 *Close Up* J.J. Dando's parents tell how her drug abuse has devastated their lives (7) (7588)
- 10.00 *Crashwatch UK* The hunt for Stephen Verrill's killer (7) (55403)
- 10.35 *Sally* Connolly's World Tour of Australia Part 4/Adelaide (7) (7) (374507)
- 11.35 *Crashwatch UK Update* (7) (82120)
- 11.45 *Angel Flight Down* (1996) Rescue squads fight to save the crew and passengers of a plane which crashed while taking a child to hospital. Directed by Charles Wilkinson (7) (531589)
- 1.10am *News* (184162)
- 1.15 *BBC News 24* (32954144)
- 9.30-10.00 *Week in Week Out* (7) (87588)
- 10.55 *Jeopardy!* (7) (33145)
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GOLF 46

Davies gets her own tournament on new calendar

RK

SPORT

TUESDAY MARCH 23 1999

MOTOR SPORT 50

Franchitti opts to win his spurs in the States



Keegan forced to pick new recruits



Parlour: first cap

KEVIN KEEGAN was last night wrestling with the prospect of gambling England's hopes of qualifying for the European championship on the performances of two international debutants after injuries and withdrawals from his squad played havoc with his preparations for the group five tie against Poland on Saturday.

No sooner had England's part-time coach started counting his players in than he had to start counting them out. There was even a depressing sort of symmetry about it. They came and went two by two and left Keegan to watch the flood waters rising. Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux, showing better judgment than on that afternoon at Stamford Bridge a few weeks ago, gained admittance when they buried their differences in the presence of Keegan.

Even as they were busy marveling about how much they had in common and arranging to get together the next time the *Antiques*

Roadshow visits *Toxeth*, though, it was emerging that David Batty and Andy Hinchcliffe had already been discounted from Keegan's plans. The absence of Batty, who has hardly kicked a ball since he joined Leeds United from Newcastle United earlier this year and is now suffering from a chest infection, is a grievous blow to England's hopes.

Already without Paul Ince, who is suspended, Nicky Butt, who was not selected, and Paul Gascoigne, who is not fit, Batty's absence means that Keegan has been confronted with a dearth of experienced players to fill the holding role at the centre of midfield. It now seems probable that he will turn to Tottenham Hotspur's midfield anchor, Tim Sherwood, who has been in outstanding form since he moved to White Hart Lane from Blackburn Rovers but has never been capped by his country.

Keegan is still unsure of his starting side but the indications he has

given are that he will play David Beckham, who is expected to shake off a calf strain, as the creative half of the central midfield partnership and Ray Parlour, rather than Darren Anderton, on the right. Parlour, too, is uncapped.

On the left, there appear to be few options other than Steve McMan-

man, who has been embroiled in his own problems at Liverpool and who himself has spent much of the season battling against a succession of niggling injuries. Keegan, in any case, is a confirmed admirer of McManaman, so an unfamiliar England midfield four is beginning to take shape for a match against the Poles that England must win to

BY OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

resuscitate their chances of qualifying for the 2000 championships.

To make matters worse, there are also serious doubts about the availability of Michael Owen, who is having intensive treatment for a hamstring injury, and of Chris Sutton, who has a groin strain. Both are likely to be ruled out of contention for a place tomorrow or Thursday. Andy Cole, once Keegan's talisman at St James' Park, is now the favourite to start in attack alongside the man who succeeded him at Newcastle, Alan Shearer.

Another striker, possibly Dion Dublin, of Aston Villa, could be called into the squad today. To complete the depressing duality of injury news, there was growing concern about the shoulder problem that ruled David Seaman out of training and the back problem that has laid Nigel Martyn low, too. With both goalkeepers scheduled for further

treatment today, Keegan called the Leeds teenager, Paul Robinson, into the squad to play opposite Ian Walker in training at Bisham Abbey. After all that, the predictable news about the *rapprochement* between Fowler and Le Saux must have seemed like a piece of driftwood to a drowning man. They, at least, are fit and raring to play.

Keegan seemed delighted by the fact that the two men had shaken hands as soon as they arrived at the team hotel at Burnham Beeches on Sunday night, unbidden and unscripted. The three of them later met together in what the Football Association described as a "clear-the-air meeting" that lasted about 20 minutes and was conducted in an amicable atmosphere. "During the meeting," an FA spokesman said, "Robbie Fowler and Graeme Le Saux made it clear to Kevin Keegan that there was no personal animosity between them. Both are keen to remain together with the squad and

are happy to continue as international team-mates."

Keegan, who made a point of shaking hands with all the players when they arrived at Burnham and moved from table to table as the squad ate their evening meal, was eager to seize on some good news, too. "I'm delighted that Graeme and Robbie were able to shake hands even before I asked them to come into a meeting," Keegan said. "I'm satisfied now that our preparations for such an important game will not be disrupted either as a squad or as individuals by what may have happened in the past."

Other issues, unfortunately, remain alive, if not kicking. Keegan has done everything right in the build-up to this match so far and avoided all the pitfalls that Glenn Hoddle careered into. Now that the screaming has started, though, and the epidemic has visited him just as it used to visit his predecessor, Keegan's mezzle is about to be tested.

McRae may switch to Formula One

TWO hundred feet below the balcony of Colin McRae's luxury apartment in Monaco is the world's most famous grand prix track. It is a circuit that the former world rally champion may find himself racing on in the future.

In what would be one of the most astonishing switches in motor sport, it emerged yesterday that the Scot is to be given the chance to try his luck behind the wheel of a Formula One car later this year. If he impresses — and some experienced observers feel that he can — then an offer to make the leap from rallying to the grand prix circuit could follow.

McRae drives for Ford in the world rally championship and it is his outstanding performances in the new Focus car — not least yesterday, when he took an extraordi-

FROM JEREMY HART IN OPORTO

nary lead in the Rally of Portugal — that have attracted the attentions of those backing the Stewart-Ford grand prix team.

"Colin is on a par with Michael Schumacher," Martin Whitaker, Ford's director of European motor sport, said. "They both have the same mystique and they are both good in all conditions."

"In fact, Colin is streets ahead of Formula One drivers in terms of being a complete driver. You could put him in any car and he would be quick, a Formula one car included. We will give him a test later this year and, if he's quick enough... well, let's wait and see. The test is not for fun."

McRae admitted that the idea of competing alongside

Schumacher, David Coulthard, Jacques Villeneuve and the rest appeals to him. "To drive in Formula One is something I have been thinking about for quite a while," he said. "If I do the test and I am competitive, then I must consider what I might be getting into. If I am committed, there is no reason why I couldn't drive in Formula One."

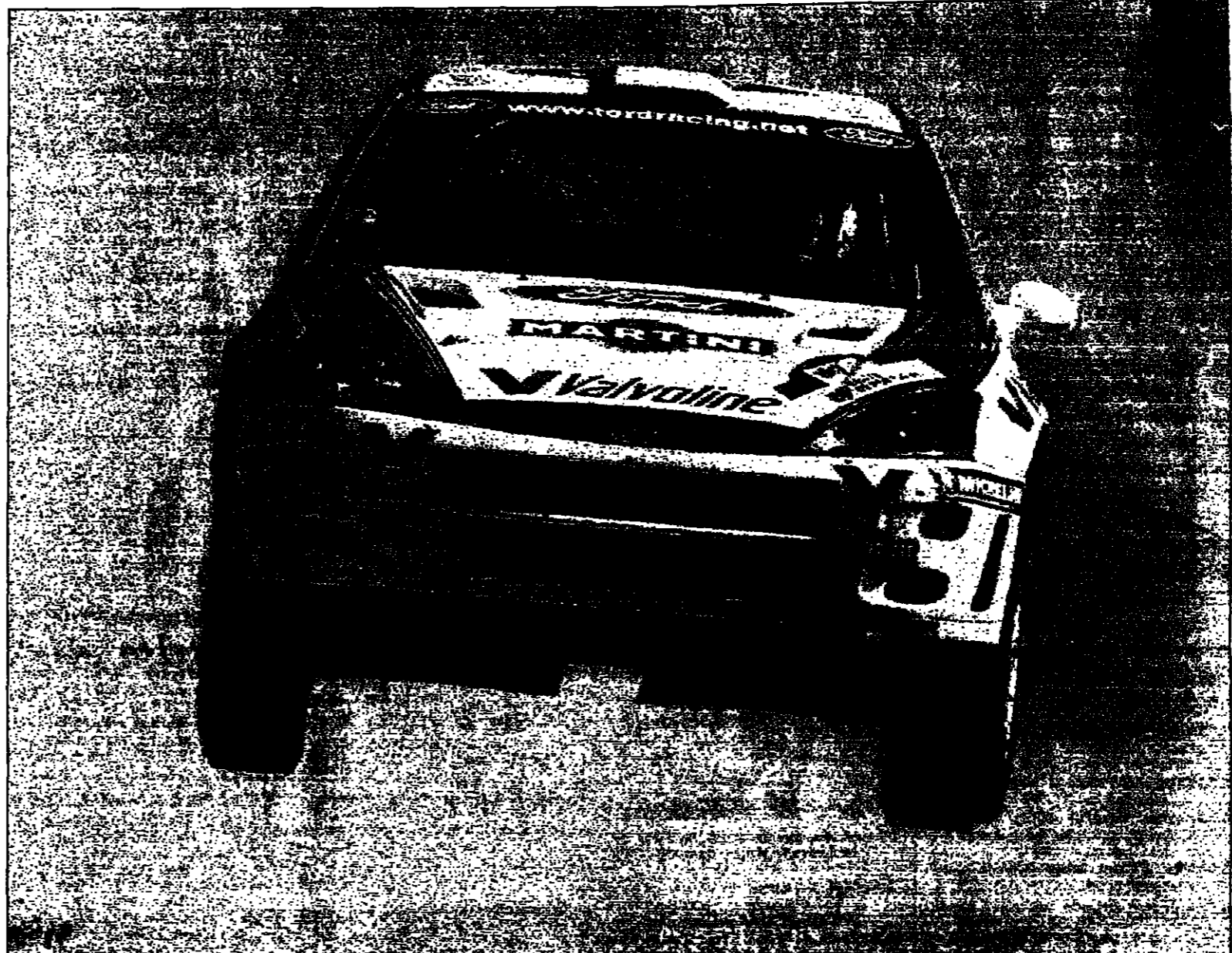
Never mind the fact that McRae has said of watching the sport: "I find grand prix racing really boring to watch. Once I fell asleep during a race because it was so dull."

Nor would it be the first time that McRae, the world rally champion in 1995, has driven a Formula One car. Three years ago, he swapped his Subaru for the Jordan of Martin Brundle in a publicity stunt for their sponsors.

He started the car without a problem and eased out of the pit lane. For the first few laps, his gear changes were erratic, but with each circuit of the track at Silverstone, he looked more comfortable.

"He's really getting the hang of it," Brundle said as he watched. His lap times came down steadily and, although he ran wide on to the grass at one point and later span the car, he came within four per cent of Brundle's time in the same car.

Not since Vic Elford, the winner of the 1968 Monte Carlo Rally who finished fourth in the French Grand Prix at Rouen in the same year, has a rally driver also made it to the top of the Formula One ladder, or, indeed, vice versa. The disciplines are so vastly different that few have attempted even to bridge the divide, a chasm that has grown as the



McRae and his co-driver, Nicky Grist, become airborne in their Ford Focus during the Portuguese Rally yesterday. Photograph: Jose Manuel Ribeiro

technology put into them has advanced.

Last night, McRae led the Rally of Portugal by just under a minute after one of the best drives of his career. In an overweight car, he left the rest of the field trailing on the stages near Oporto.

"I was not expecting to be leading with the car being overweight," McRae said, "but if we can be this competitive here, then it looks good for the rest of the year."

His remorseless driving has left him on course for a second successive rally victory, after his triumph in the Safari Rally, winning four of the eight special stages yesterday and finishing joint-fastest in another. His lead of 49sec was all the more remarkable considering that he won the race last year by just 2.1sec from Carlos Sainz, of Spain.

This time, his leading challenger is not the Spaniard but Richard Burns, a fellow Briton, in a Subaru, with Sainz, driving a Toyota, only a fraction of a second further back. Tommi Makinen, the world champion, is struggling in ninth place after suffering transmission problems in his Mitsubishi.



INSIDE
Julian Murrell's new flat racing column
Page 47

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Henman's form causes concern

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

LOOKING on the positive side, Tim Henman's defeat at the hands of Jerome Golmard on Sunday night at least gave him a few extra days at home to prepare for the Davis Cup. It may not be much but, when times are hard, even the shortest of straws is worth clutching. And, at the moment, times are hard.

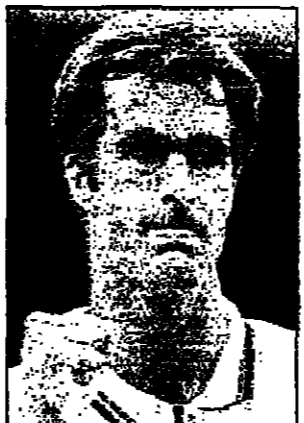
Yesterday, the United States announced their Davis Cup squad — Todd Martin, Jim Courier, Jan-Michael Gambill and Alex O'Brien — at a restaurant on Ocean Drive here. There were no surprises in the selection and very little interest, either.

Forced to compete with honking taxis and the well-heeled and well-muscled strutting their stuff in the sunshine, Tom Gullikson, the US team captain, was fighting a losing battle. With March Madness, the NCAA basketball extravaganza, coming to a head this weekend, the thought of a small group of Americans playing tennis in Birmingham pales into insignificance.

On the British side of the Atlantic, however, there was more than enough cause for concern. Gullikson may have

sounded a little desperate as he begged the Americans to get behind their brave boys, but there was a hint of steel in his tone as he pointed out that his men have a 13-2 winning record over David Lloyd's chaps. Henman and Greg Rusedski have both beaten Martin, but only once, and that was a couple of years ago.

When Henman beat him at the US Open, the tall and slow-moving Martin's arm was so badly injured that he could hardly lift a racket.



Martin: named in US team

When Rusedski beat him the next year, Martin had spent seven months trying to recover from the same injury.

"The pressure is on them to win," Gullikson said. "They are playing at home with their two top ten players, so you would have to say they are the slight favourites." But whatever Gullikson says in public, he will have been greatly heartened by Henman's miserable performance against Golmard.

He started poorly and got progressively worse. Given half a chance to salvage the situation in the second set, he wasted it, losing 6-4, 7-6. "It seemed the worse I played, the more I mixed it up, the harder he found it," Henman said with marvellous logic.

"In the second set, I stayed back a little bit more and that seemed to work. But you've got to be able to keep that going once you get your chance and I didn't do that." Gullikson will be pleased.

Pete Sampras has not been pleased for a while now. Still struggling with his form, he reached the last 16 with a workmanlike 7-5, 6-3 defeat of

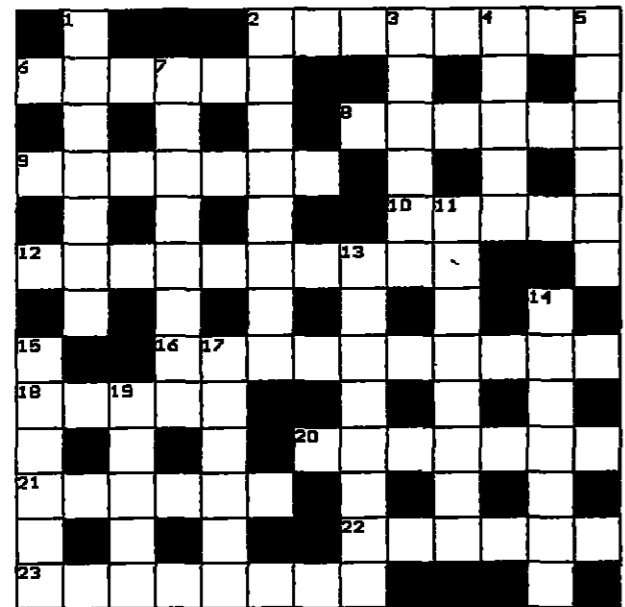
Jonas Bjorkman, but he was not happy. "I would have been happier if I could have broken him a couple of times more," he said, "but I got through and that's the main thing."

As if that was not bad enough, Sampras discovered that his next match, against Albert Costa, had been moved out of the spotlight on stadium court and downgraded to the grandstand court. "It's an absolute shock to me," he said, looking more stupefied than shocked. "How many grand slams or tournaments do you have to win to get on stadium court?"

Lindsay Davenport knew how Sampras felt. She just about survived her late-night encounter with Silvia Parina, winning 6-4, 7-5. She, like Sampras, would like to regain her No 1 ranking but, like Sampras, she is not playing at her best.

Looking a bit sluggish and surprised by how well Parina was playing, she found herself 5-3 down in the second set before she woke up. From that point on, she conceded just two more points and now plays Elena Likhovtseva for a place in the quarter-finals.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1672

ACROSS

- 2 Faithful unceasing (8)
- 6 Blanket with hole for head (6)
- 8 Great bright (6)
- 9 Merciful (7)
- 10 (Establish) worth (5)
- 12 An exclusion of responsibility (10)
- 16 Non-serious student (10)
- 18 Unsociable type (5)
- 20 A stiff hair (7)
- 21 American biscuit (6)
- 22 An edible seed; one with open (6)
- 23 Roof tiles; a painful condition (8)

DOWN

- 1 Exclusive shared-interest group (7)
- 2 Eng. county bordering only one other (8)
- 3 Protective wrapper (6)
- 4 Girl's name; type of fool (5)
- 5 Castle tower (6)
- 7 Happen together; occupy same space (8)
- 11 Little Rock's capital (8)
- 13 One slept on (8)
- 14 Egyptian dynasty; Gk. astronomer (7)
- 15 Slope below fort (6)
- 17 Washington — Berlin (6)
- 19 Girl's name; I complain (rev.) (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1671

ACROSS: 2 Guaranteeing 7 Furrow 8 Inland 9 Race 10 Test case 12 Doorstep 16 Race 18 Hippocampus 20 Velvet 21 Mispronounce

DOWN: 1 Saboteur 2 Talent 3 Ethics 4 Veal 5 Envies 6 Gouda 11 Caroline 13 Osiris 14 Tiptoe 15 Pavlov 17 Crews 19 Copri

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